

# ST. MICHAEL'S C.E.PRIMARY SCHOOL, STEVENTON

## ACCESS TO EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN WITH MEDICAL NEEDS

The school has a responsibility to ensure that all children with medical conditions, in terms of both physical and mental health, are properly supported in school so that they play a full and active role in school life, remain healthy and achieve their academic potential. Good communication and co-operation between the school, home and other professionals are essential.

The key aims of the policy are to:

- provide continued education as normally as the condition allows
- reduce the risk of lowering self-confidence and educational achievement
- promote equal access to education for all children and young people
- establish effective liaison between home, school and other healthcare professionals
- ensure that prompt action takes place to minimise disruption to the child's education

Children and young people with medical conditions are entitled to a full education and have the same rights of admission to school as other children. This means that no child with a medical condition should be denied admission or prevented from taking up a place in school because arrangements for their medical condition have not been made. However, in line with their safeguarding duties, governing bodies should ensure that pupils' health is not put at unnecessary risk from, for example, infectious diseases. They therefore do not have to accept a child in a school at times where it would be detrimental to the health of that child or others..

The school does not have to wait for a formal diagnosis before providing support to pupils. In cases where a pupil's medical condition is unclear, or where there is a difference of opinion, judgements will be needed about what support to provide based on the available evidence. This would normally involve some form of medical evidence and consultation with parents. Where evidence conflicts, some degree of challenge may be necessary to ensure that the right support can be put in place.

### **Roles & Responsibilities**

The governing body will have strategic overview to ensure:

- That arrangements are in place to support pupils with medical conditions to ensure that such children can access and enjoy the same opportunities at school as any other child.
- That the focus is on the needs of each individual child and how their medical condition impacts on their school life.
- That the arrangements give parents and pupils confidence in the school's ability to provide effective support for the management of medical conditions in school.

- That the arrangements that are put in place meet statutory responsibilities and ensure that policies, plans, procedures and systems are properly and effectively implemented.
- That the policy for supporting pupils with medical conditions is reviewed regularly and is readily accessible to parents and school staff.

The Headteacher will have operational overview to ensure:

- That sufficient staff are suitably trained, and available to support relevant pupils in school or on off-site visits.
- That all relevant staff are made aware of a child's condition

The Headteacher and SENCo will have operational overview to ensure:

- That, where appropriate, Individual Healthcare Plans (IHP) are drawn up, implemented and reviewed on an annual basis or more frequently should the condition change.
- That when a child leaves the school, his/her most recent IHP is passed onto the next setting.

The Class teachers and School Administrator will ensure:

- That supply staff are made aware of a child's medical condition
- That risk assessments are in place where appropriate (e.g off site visits)
- That necessary medication (e.g asthma inhalers, EpiPens) is taken on off-site visits.
- That records are maintained of medication administered at school.
- That prescribed medicine is in date.

The parents/carers of pupils with medical conditions will:

- Provide sufficient and up to date information about their child's needs
- Be involved in the development and review of their child's individual healthcare plan.
- Carry out any action they have agreed to as part of its implementation e.g provide medicines and equipment that are in date and appropriately serviced and ensure that they or another nominated adult are contactable at all times.

Pupils will:

- Children who are competent to do so will be encouraged to take responsibility for administering their own medicines (under adult supervision where necessary).

### **Individual healthcare plans**

When the school is notified that a pupil has a medical condition, the Headteacher or SENCo will make an initial assessment to determine whether an IHP is required. The process for drawing one up is contained in Annex A of this document.

The format of individual healthcare plans may vary depending what is the most effective for the specific needs of each pupil. Plans will capture the key information

and actions that are required to support the child effectively. The level of detail within plans will depend on the complexity of the child's condition and the degree of support needed. Where a child has SEN but does not have a statement of EHC plan, their special educational needs will be mentioned in their individual healthcare plan.

Individual healthcare plans (and their review) may be initiated, in consultation with the parent, by a member of school staff or a healthcare professional involved in providing care to the child and should be drawn up in partnership between the school, parents, and a relevant healthcare professional (and pupils where appropriate). Plans should be developed with the child's best interests in mind and ensure that the school assesses and manages risks to the child's education, health and social wellbeing and minimises disruption.

Where a child is returning to school following a period of hospital education or alternative provision (including home tuition), the school will work with the local authority and education provider to ensure that the IHP identifies the support the child will need to reintegrate effectively.

### **Staff Training**

Training needs will be reviewed regularly and at least annually by the Headteacher and SENCo (in liaison with the School Administrator) to ensure that staff training remains in date and is still appropriate for the needs of the child. They will ensure that appropriate staff receive suitable training to enable them to provide the specific support needed by a child with a medical condition as identified in their IHP.

The training will be sufficient to ensure that staff are competent and have confidence in their ability to support pupils with medical conditions, and to fulfil the requirements as set out in individual healthcare plans. This support will include an understanding of the specific medical conditions they are being asked to deal with, their implications and preventative measures.

### **Emergency Procedures**

In a medical emergency staff will call 999 and notify the pupil's parents or nominated carer. Detailed emergency procedures are included in each child's IHP.

### **Procedures**

We will:

- Ensure that children can access their inhalers and other medication as and when necessary
- Treat every child individually and not assume that every child with the same condition requires the same treatment.
- Ensure that the views of the child or their parents are listened to; and we won't ignore medical evidence or opinion (although this may be challenged e.g if following medical evidence or opinion the child or their parents are still of the view that something is wrong).

- Avoid sending children with medical conditions home frequently or prevent them from staying for normal school activities, including lunch, unless this is specified in their individual healthcare plans.
- If a child becomes ill, they will be accompanied to the school office.
- Children's absence will be marked as authorised in their attendance record if their absences are related to their medical condition, e.g. hospital appointments.
- We will not prevent pupils from drinking, eating or taking toilet or other breaks whenever they need to in order to manage their medical condition effectively.
- We will not require parents, or otherwise make them feel obliged, to attend school to administer medication or provide medical support to their child, including with toileting issues.
- We will not prevent children from participating, or create unnecessary barriers to children participating in any aspect of school life, including trips, e.g. by requiring parents to accompany the child.

### **Complaints**

If a parent has concerns about the support of their child with a medical condition, he or she should follow the school's published Complaints procedure.

Please also refer to the following policies:

- ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICINES POLICY
- ASTHMA POLICY
- FIRST AID POLICY

Approved – November 2023

## Annex A: Procedure for developing Individual Healthcare Plans

