



## **SUPPORTING PUPILS AT SCHOOL WITH MEDICAL CONDITIONS POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

**Date of Review: November 2024**

**Review Date: Annually**

### **Legislative background**

At St Patrick's Catholic Primary School we recognise and will meet our duties and responsibilities in relation to supporting pupils at school with medical conditions. These duties and responsibilities are contained in the legislation and statutory guidance listed below:

- Department for Education's statutory guidance - 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions' April 2014 (updated June 2014) – governing bodies, proprietors and management committees must have regard to this guidance in order to meet the duty / responsibilities of the Children and Families Act 2014.
- Children and Families Act 2014 (Section 100) – places a duty upon governing bodies of maintained schools, proprietors of academies and management committees of PRUs to make arrangements for supporting pupils at their school with medical conditions.
- Equality Act 2010 – some children with medical conditions may be disabled. Where this is the case governing bodies must comply with their duties under the Equality Act 2010.
- Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Code of Practice July 2014 – some children with medical conditions may also have special educational needs (SEN) and may have a Statement, or Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan. For children with SEN this policy / procedure statement should be read in conjunction with school SEN policies and the SEND Code of Practice.

### **Introduction**

At St Patrick's Catholic Primary School children with medical conditions, in terms of both physical and mental health, will be appropriately supported in school so that they can play a full and active role in school life, remain healthy and achieve their academic potential. Children with medical conditions will be encouraged and supported to access and enjoy the same opportunities at school as any other child.

We recognise that pupils with long-term and complex medical conditions may require on-going support, medicines or care whilst at school to help them to manage their condition and keep them well. Others may require monitoring and interventions in emergency circumstances. St Patrick's Catholic Primary School recognises that each child's needs are individual.

We also recognise that needs may change over time, and that this may result in extended absence from school. The school will make every effort to minimise the impact upon a child's educational attainment and support his or her emotional and general well-being, including any necessary re-integration programmes. The school will strive to give pupils and their parents, confidence in the school's approach.

The school recognises that some children who require support with their medical conditions may also have special educational needs and may have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan. We will work together with other schools, health professionals, other support services, and the Local Authority. Sometimes it will be necessary for the school to work flexibly, for example, by means of a combination of attendance at school and alternative provision / personalised learning.

### **Policy arrangements**

- The Headteacher, Mrs S Newman, will ensure that sufficient staff are suitably trained.
- All relevant staff including supply and other temporary staff will be made aware of the child's condition.
- Cover arrangements will be put into place to cover for staff absence to ensure that appropriate provision is always available.
- Risk assessments will be put into place for educational visits, and other school activities outside the normal timetable, and
- Individual Healthcare Plans (HCPs) will be monitored and involve appropriate health care professionals.

### **Procedure to be followed when notification is received that a pupil has a medical condition**

The school, in consultation with all relevant stakeholders including parents, will:

- Ensure that arrangements are put into place to cover transition from another setting, upon being notified that a child is coming into school with a medical condition. These may vary from child to child, according to the existing HCP.
- Ensure that arrangements are implemented following reintegration into the school or when the needs of a child change.
- Put arrangements into place in time for the start of the new school term.

- In other cases, such as a new diagnosis or children moving to a new school mid-term, make every effort to ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place within two weeks.
- Provide support to pupils where it is judged by professionals that there is likely to be a medical condition.
- Ensure that any staff training needs are identified and met.

### **Individual Healthcare Plans (HCP)**

The school's SENCO (Mrs L. Tynan) is responsible for developing individual Health Care Plans (HCPs) – in liaison with, and with appropriate oversight of, a relevant healthcare professional (e.g. school nurse /nurse specialist – diabetes / epilepsy / paediatrician, etc). The purpose of an HCP is to ensure that there is clarity about what needs to be done, when and by whom. An HCP will often be essential, such as in cases where conditions fluctuate or where there is a high risk that emergency intervention will be needed, and they are likely to be helpful in the majority of other cases, especially where medical conditions are long-term and complex and require specific management. However, not all children will require an HCP. The school, healthcare professionals and parents will agree, based upon evidence, when an HCP would be inappropriate or disproportionate. If consensus cannot be reached, the Headteacher will take a final view. A flow chart for agreeing the support required is provided in [Annex A](#). Input from a healthcare professional must be provided.

The HCP is confidential to parents / young person and to those school staff who need to know. The level of detail within an HCP will depend upon the complexity of the child's condition and the degree of support needed. Where a child has a special educational need, but does not have an EHC Plan, their special educational needs will be referred to in their HCP.

HCPs 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 for the child. HCPs will be drawn-up in partnership between the school, parents, and a relevant healthcare professional, e.g. Specialist or Community / School Nurse / other health professional. Wherever possible, the child should also be involved in the process. The aim is to capture what needs to be done to help staff and the child manage their condition and overcome any potential barriers to getting the most from their education. Responsibility for ensuring the plan is finalised rests with the school.

HCPs will be reviewed at least annually or more frequently if evidence is presented that the child's needs have changed. HCPs are devised with the child's best interests in mind, ensuring that an assessment of risk to the child's education, health and social well-being is managed minimising disruption. Reviews will be linked to any EHC Plan, as appropriate.

### **Information to be recorded**

When deciding upon the information to be recorded on HCPs, the following will be considered:

- The medical condition, its triggers, signs, symptoms and treatments.
- The pupil's resulting needs, including medication (dose, side-effects and storage) and other treatments, time, facilities, equipment, testing, access to food and drink where this is used to manage their condition, dietary requirements and environmental issues. E.g. Crowded corridors, travel time between lessons.
- Specific support for the pupil's educational, social and emotional needs. E.g. exams, use of rest periods or additional support in catching up with lessons, counselling sessions.
- The level of support needed, including in emergencies. If a child is self-managing their medication, this should be clearly stated with appropriate arrangements for monitoring.
- Who will provide the support, their training needs, expectations of their role and confirmation of proficiency to provide support for the child's medical condition from a healthcare professional; and cover arrangements for when they are unavailable.
- Who in the school needs to be aware of the child's condition and the support required.
- Arrangements for written permission from parents and the Headteacher for medication to be administered by a member of staff, or self-administered by the pupil during school hours.
- Separate arrangements or procedures required for school trips or other school activities outside of the normal school timetable that will ensure the child can participate, e.g., appropriate Risk Assessments.
- Where confidentiality issues are raised by the parent or child, the designated individuals to be entrusted with information about the child's condition.
- 'What to do in an emergency', including whom to contact and contingency arrangements. Some children may have an emergency healthcare plan prepared by their lead clinician that could be used to inform the development of their school HCP.
- Informing / sharing appropriate HCP information with other relevant bodies (e.g. Home to School Transport) – through appropriate agreement / consent.

### **Roles and responsibilities**

Supporting a child with a medical condition during school hours is not the sole responsibility of one person. The school will work collaboratively; both with staff within the organisation and with outside agencies, as the circumstances of each child dictate.

#### Governing Body

The Governing Body will ensure that:

- Pupils in school with medical conditions are supported.

- This policy is reviewed at least annually, developed, implemented and monitored.
- Staff receive suitable training and that they are competent before they take on the responsibility to support children with medical conditions.
- There are quality assurance systems in place to ensure that pupils in school with medical conditions are supported (e.g. Local Authority Health and Safety Officer checks procedures and H & S Governor visits)

### Headteacher

The Headteacher has overall responsibility for the development of HCPs. The Headteacher will ensure that:

- The *Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions Policy / Procedure* is developed and effectively implemented with partners, including ensuring that all staff are aware of the policy and that they understand their role in implementing the policy.
- The Headteacher will ensure that all staff who need to know are aware of a child's medical condition.
- Sufficiently trained staff are available to implement the policy and deliver against all the HCPs, including in contingency and emergency situations.
- Ensure that all staff are appropriately insured to support pupils in this way.
- Liaise with the school nurse in respect of a child who has a medical condition, including in cases where the situation has not yet been brought to the attention of the school nursing service.

### School Staff

Any member of the school staff may be asked to provide support to pupils with medical conditions, designated staff will administer medicines when appropriate. When this happens there will be two members of staff present and administration of medication is recorded in the medicine book.

Any member of school staff should know what to do and respond accordingly when they become aware that a pupil with a medical condition needs help.

### Pupils

Pupils with medical conditions may be best placed to provide information about how their condition affects them. Where appropriate, they will be involved in discussions about their medical support needs and contribute as much as possible to the development of, and review of, their HCP. Other children will often be sensitive to the needs of those with medical conditions and this will be considered as part of wider planning.

### Parents / Carers

Parents / carers should provide the school with sufficient and up-to-date information about their child's medical needs. At St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, parents/ carers

are key partners and they will be involved in the development and review of their child's HCP, including its drafting. Parents/carers should carry out the action they have agreed to as part of its implementation, e.g., provide medicines and equipment and ensure they or another nominated adult are contactable at all times.

### Local Authority

St Patrick's Catholic Primary School will communicate / liaise with the Local Authority as required by a child's medical needs.

The Local Authority has a duty to commission a school nursing service to this school.

The Local Authority will provide support, advice and guidance, as appropriate.

### Providers of Health Services

St Patrick's Catholic Primary School will communicate / liaise with providers of health services as appropriate / required by a child's medical needs. Health services can provide valuable support, information, advice and guidance to schools, and their staff, to support children with medical conditions at school.

### Integrated Care Systems (formerly CCGs)

St Patrick's Catholic Primary School will communicate / liaise with ICS colleagues as appropriate / required by a child's medical needs. ICSs commission other healthcare professionals such as specialist nurses. They ensure that commissioning is responsive to children's needs, and that health services are able to co-operate with schools supporting children with medical conditions.

### **Staff training and support**

Training needs for staff will be assessed by looking at the current and anticipated needs of pupils already on roll. It may be possible to determine training needs by early information relating to a child about to be admitted to the school. All members of staff providing support to a child with medical needs will have been trained beforehand. Staff who provide specific support to pupils with medical conditions will be included in meetings where this is discussed. All staff training in relation to medical conditions will be recorded / signed off in terms of competency.

The type of training, and frequency of refresher training, will be determined by the actual medical condition that a child may have and this will be supported by the Governing Body. Some training may be arranged by the school, and other types may make use of the skills and knowledge provided by the school nursing service, or specialist nursing services, among others. In some cases, a specific health care professional will be required to provide appropriate training. Training may involve on-site or off-site provision. Parents / carers and appropriate healthcare professionals will be asked to supply specific advice in relation to possible training requirements.

Staff will be made aware of the specific needs of each child with a medical condition and will be competent and confident to deliver the support.

### **The child's role in managing their own medical needs**

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At St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, the children who require medication or other procedures will be supervised in administering them or receiving them from a relevant member of staff. If a child refuses to take medicine or carry out a medical procedure, staff will follow the procedure agreed in the HCP. Parents / carers and relevant health professionals will be informed so that alternative options can be considered.

### **Managing medicines on school premises**

NB: Where clinically possible, medicines should be prescribed in dose frequencies which enable them to be taken outside school hours. Where this is not possible, the following will apply:

- Medicines will only be administered at school when it would be detrimental to a child's health or school attendance not to do so.
- **No child will be given prescription or non-prescription medicines without their parent's written consent (as part of an HCP or on a Form 3B).**
- Non-prescription medicines will be administered by parents, as far as is reasonably practicable, should they be needed during the school day. For the administering of non-prescription medicines during a residential educational visit, parents should provide written consent.
- No child will be given a medicine containing aspirin unless it has been prescribed by a doctor. Parents will be required to give their written consent.
- **The school will only accept prescribed medicines that are in-date, labelled, provided in the original container, as dispensed by the pharmacist, and include instructions for administration, dosage and storage.** The exception to this is insulin which must be in-date, but will generally be available to schools inside an insulin pen or pump, rather than its original container.
- Medicines will be stored safely. Depending on the medication, this is currently either in the school Medical Room or in the fridge in the office (if appropriate) or the child's classroom in the designated medical box. Children who need to access their medicines immediately, such as those requiring asthma inhalers, will be shown where they are. Emergency medication, like epipens, are always kept in the class medical box, which is accessible at all times. On educational visits, medicines will also be available and they will be looked after by a relevant member of staff.
- If a controlled drug has been prescribed, it will be kept securely and stored in a non-portable container (in the medical room). Named staff only will have access to such medication so that it can be administered to the specific child. The school will keep a record of doses administered, stating what, how and how much was administered, when and by whom. Any side effects of the medication will be noted.
- **It is the parents' responsibility to ensure that medication held in school is in-date.**
- When no longer required, medicines will be returned to the parent to arrange for safe disposal.

- Written records will be kept of all medicines administered to children and parents / carers will be informed if their child has been unwell at school.

### **Use of Adrenaline Auto-Injectors**

Current guidance from the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is that anyone prescribed an Adrenaline Auto-Injector (AAI) should carry two of the devices at all times. We understand that many families have difficulty getting enough Epi-pens prescribed to ensure that they have two at home and two in school.

It is now considered good practice for schools to hold an Emergency Anaphylaxis Kit. This guidance is non-statutory, but has been developed by the Department of Health (Guidance on the Use of Adrenaline Auto-Injectors in Schools 2017). The kit consists of an emergency adrenaline auto-injector (AAI) which is kept in the school medical room. Schools may administer their spare AAI, obtained without prescription, for use in emergencies.

An emergency AAI can only be used for a pupil at risk of anaphylaxis, where both medical authorisation (i.e. a HCP stating an Epi-pen is prescribed) and written parental consent for use of the spare AAI has been provided. The school's spare AAI can be used instead of a pupil's own prescribed AAI, if this cannot be administered correctly, without delay. It can also be administered as a second dose if a pupil's condition does not improve 5 to 10 minutes after the initial injection. The AAIs held by school are considered to be a spare/back-up device and are not a replacement for a pupil's own AAI.

### **Emergency procedures**

A child's HCP will clearly define what constitutes an 'emergency' and the action to be taken, including ensuring that all relevant staff are aware of emergency symptoms and procedures. It may be necessary to inform other pupils in general terms so that they can inform a member of staff immediately if they think help is needed.

If a child is taken to hospital, staff will stay with the child until the parents / carers arrive, or accompany a child taken to hospital by ambulance. Accurate information about the child will be provided to the emergency services at the call out stage, during any first response stage, or subsequent moving on to hospital.

### **Educational visits and sporting activities**

The school will consider how a child's medical condition will impact upon their participation. We will encourage all children to participate according to their ability and make any necessary reasonable adjustments, unless evidence from a clinician, such as a GP, states that this is not possible.

The school will consider what reasonable adjustments and risk assessments are required so that planning arrangements take into account all steps needed to ensure that children with medical conditions are included. This will require consultation with parents / carers, pupils and advice from relevant healthcare professionals to ensure that pupils can participate safely.

### **Unacceptable practice**



Although school staff will use their discretion and judge each case on its merits with reference to the child's HCP, it is not generally acceptable practice to:

- Prevent children from easily accessing their inhalers and medication and administering their medication when and where necessary.
- Assume that every child with the same condition requires the same treatment.
- Ignore the views of the child or their parents; or ignore medical evidence or opinion, (although this may be challenged).
- Send children with medical conditions home or prevent them from staying for normal school activities, including lunch, unless this is specified in their HCP.
- If the child becomes ill, send them to the school office or medical room unaccompanied or with someone unsuitable.
- Penalise children for their attendance record if their absences are related to their medical condition e.g., hospital appointments.
- Prevent pupils from drinking, eating or taking toilet or other breaks whenever they need to in order to manage their medical condition effectively (as identified in their HCP).
- Require parents / carers, or otherwise make them feel obliged, to attend school to administer medication or provide medical support to their child, including with toileting issues. No parent should have to give up working because the school is failing to support their child's medical needs.
- Prevent children from participating, or create unnecessary barriers to children participating in any aspect of school life.

### **Liability and indemnity**

The Governing Body at St Patrick's Catholic Primary School ensures that appropriate insurance is in place and that it reflects the level of risk. The insurance covers staff providing support to pupils with medical conditions. From time to time, the school will need to review the level of cover for healthcare procedures and any associated related training requirements (such as may be the case with specific children with complex needs).

### **Complaints**

Parents / carers who are dissatisfied with the support provided should discuss their concerns directly with the school. If for whatever reason this does not resolve the issue, they can make a formal complaint via the school's complaints procedure.

### **Other issues for consideration**

The school has a number of trained First Aiders amongst the staff.

This policy was originally written: June 2018.

This policy will be reviewed: Annually

Signed by the Chair of Governors: .....

Date:

## **Annex A**

### **Process for developing HCPs.**

