



Fiddlers Lane

Community Primary School

POLICY ON SUPPORTING CHILDREN WITH MEDICAL NEEDS

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INTRODUCTION

This policy is the basis of our management system for supporting children with medical needs.

We recognise that children may require support for acute, short term and long term conditions. Acute conditions are for example severe asthma attacks or allergic reactions. Short term conditions are for example finishing a course of antibiotics. Long term conditions are for example controlled epilepsy, diabetes, asthma requiring daily use of an inhaler, managing a stoma bag and use of a feeding tube.

We recognise that children who need support for medical needs have the same rights of admission as other children and that children who have a disability are protected from discrimination by equalities legislation. Parents will be assisted in selecting the most suitable school or setting for their child in the admissions procedure. Some children may need support from social services or community nurses or they may need to attend a special school.

We expect parents to refrain from presenting a child who is unwell. When we refuse admission or require children to leave for medical reasons it will only be if they need receive emergency treatment or if their presence is a significant and not easily controlled risk to the health or safety of our personnel or of other children, for example if they are infectious e.g. they have influenza. We will only refuse admission or send children home after consultation with parents. For the purposes of attendance at school this would be an authorised absence not exclusion.

We will as far as is reasonable and operationally practical support parents who wish to provide their own support, for example by attending to administer medicine. We will not compel parents to attend to provide support and we will have the capacity to support children's medical needs without relying solely on parents.

We will provide support by appointment of volunteer personnel and we will inform and communicate with other personnel who are 'in loco parentis' in order that they have the knowledge to obtain medical assistance when necessary. Where we cannot provide support via our personnel we will make alternative arrangements for managing children who are in pain, have a chronic medical condition or otherwise require medication. We will be able to demonstrate that these measures meet statutory requirements for safety and for equalities legislation, that they are inclusive and that they promote the good health of children. We will make this policy clear to parents.

We will annually review the effectiveness of the support that we provide, for example in relation to identifying additional training needs.

ARRANGEMENTS

1. Notification

We expect parents to notify us of a child's medical condition and the type of support that they need. This will normally occur either during the admission process or after advice from a doctor.

2. Planning for support

We expect that in many cases a decision on the support that will be provided will be a straightforward matter of agreement between us and the parents however in more complex cases we may need to seek advice from the Primary Care Trust (PCT) and our Health and Safety consultant.

2.1 Home support

We expect parents to adopt practices which reduce the need for support outside the home, for example up to three times daily medications should be able to be administered prior to attending, after attending and in the evening and for asthma regular use of the preventer (brown) at home administered by parents will reduce the risk of asthma symptoms and the need to use the reliever (blue) in school.

2.2 Self management

We expect parents to empower their children to self manage where they are capable. We will make self management plans with parents and record parental consent on Form 1. We have a presumption against children carrying medicine unless it is emergency medicine such as an adrenaline pen or an asthma inhaler. Where children carry their own pen we will keep a spare readily available. For asthma it is likely that children in years 5 and 6 and onwards can carry their own inhaler but if needed more than twice during the school day an adult must be informed. If children do not carry their own inhaler then we will store it in an easily accessible place. Please see the asthma policy for more detail.

2.3 Support for simple needs (e.g. supervision of a dose of antibiotics)

We will appoint volunteer personnel to provide support and we will inform and communicate with other personnel who are 'in loco parentis' in order that they have the knowledge to obtain medical assistance when necessary. We will use Form 1 to make a support plan with parents and to record parental consent.

2.4 Support for complex needs (including severe asthma)

We will appoint volunteer personnel to provide support and we will inform and communicate with other personnel who are 'in loco parentis' in order that they have the knowledge to obtain medical assistance when necessary. We will use Form 2 to make a Health Care Plan in partnership with the PCT and parents and to record parental consent.

3.0 Recording support

We will use Form 3 to make records of receipts and dispensations of medicines, administrations, supervisions and refusals. We will make a witness countersignature when recording work with controlled drugs. Where a procedure is likely to affect a child's dignity then we will provide two personnel and at least one will be of the same gender as the child if at all possible. We will inform parents of all refusals. We will inform parents of support provided to early years children. We will not routinely inform parents of support provided to children older than early years.

RESPONSIBILITIES

We will:

- Publish this policy in an easily accessible place for example the school or setting web site, implement the policy, establish an effective management system to support children with medical needs, appoint volunteer personnel to provide support and ensure that they are trained and use the correct procedures. We will inform and communicate with other personnel who are 'in loco parentis' in order that they have the knowledge to obtain medical assistance when necessary.
- Communicate with parents, children and health professionals where necessary, for example in making a support plan or health care plan.
- Provide facilities for safe storage of healthcare support materials and medicine and for safe disposal of waste.
- Ensure that at least one named adult is present and responsible for support on every organised trip and visit.
- Ensure that no prescription or non-prescription medicine is administered without parental consent.
- Maintain the medical confidentiality of the child.

Parents must:

- Not present children if they are infectious with a condition which is a significant and not easily controlled risk to the health or safety of our personnel or other children, for example if they have influenza.
- Read and understand the policy on supporting children with medical needs.
- Inform us if their child needs support.
- Inform us if children need to take medicine during hours of attendance.
- Cooperate with us in making a written plan to support their child.
- Provide sufficient information about the child's condition and support needs and provide details of any changes to their prescription or the support required in good time.
- Give consent for our personnel to provide support otherwise it will not be possible to support their child lawfully.
- Inform us in good time if their child is not medically fit to attend or go on a trip (note that as far as is reasonable we will plan trips in order that all pupils can attend).

Employees appointed to provide support must:

- Fully understand the support plan and the procedures for providing support, safe storage and safe disposal of waste.
- Store medicines as instructed by a GP or pharmacist.
- Inform us and the parent forthwith and as soon as practicable if support is not provided in accordance with the plan.
- Maintain the medical confidentiality of the child.
- Not provide support unless they have been appointed and trained as necessary.
- Not make a record of support unless they have personally provided or witnessed support.
- Not force children who refuse to take medication. Record refusals and inform the parent forthwith.

PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Appointing personnel

Appointments will be made on a voluntary basis. We can appoint any member of personnel who has volunteered and who is competent (i.e. trained to a sufficient level of proficiency as necessary).

Training

In general we will be capable of training personnel on this policy, on infection control techniques, on side effects of medicines and on supporting simple medical needs. We will provide training by health professionals for supporting complex needs and for undertaking activities which need medical or technical expertise. Training will be specific to the individual child as children can have unrelated conditions which can make administering common medicines hazardous.

We will review training needs for each child annually or sooner if there has been a significant change or at a frequency advised by the PCT.

We will make arrangements for training school personnel with the PCT School Health Service. This is the responsibility of the SENCO.

We will make arrangements for training in asthma with the PCT Asthma Service for Children (contact Margaret Cuffwright, tel: 0161 212 4165, email: margaret.cuffwright@salford.nhs.uk).

Provision of information to and communication with other personnel

In addition to appointing persons to provide medical support it will be necessary to provide information to and communicate with other personnel who may be 'in loco parentis' but who may not be appointed or trained to provide medical support. This is in order that those personnel have the knowledge to respond and obtain the correct medical support when necessary. Consideration should be given to the best practical way of achieving this which may include making a symbol on the child's record in the class register or attendance list and provision of copies of Support Plans and Health Care Plans to all personnel likely to be 'in loco parentis'.

Transport, packaging, labelling, storage and dispensing of medicines and materials

Our policy is that in general non-emergency medicine should not be carried by children especially early years and primary school children. Older children in primary and secondary schools will generally be able to carry their own emergency medicines e.g. carry their own asthma inhaler or adrenaline pen. It is our policy that controlled drugs are kept in a locked cabinet and managed by an appointed person notwithstanding the fact that it is lawful for children to carry prescribed controlled drugs.

We expect parents to deliver a weekly supply of medicine directly to the headteacher, setting manager or their appointed person in a labelled container as originally dispensed. We will make a record of receipt, dispensing and disposal should be made Form 3. We will not accept medication in non original, unlabelled or DIY style labelled containers.

We will keep medicines at the school or setting while the child is in attendance and we will store it in accordance with product instructions, in the original container and correctly labelled as dispensed. We will keep medicines in an easily accessible place secure from access by children. We will keep controlled drugs in a locked

cabinet. If we keep medicines which require refrigeration in a fridge with foodstuffs we will keep them in an airtight container. We will inform children where their own medication is stored and who is the key holder.

We will only store medicine that is clearly labelled with the original dispensing label, which should include:

- Name of medication
- Child's name
- Dosage
- Dosage frequency
- Date of dispensing
- Storage requirements (if important)
- Expiry date (if available)

Educational trips and visits

We will ensure that at least one named adult is present and responsible for support on every journey. We will not administer prescription or non-prescription medicine under any circumstances without parental consent.

We will plan trips and visits so that all pupils can attend, as far as is reasonable.

Disposal of waste

We will return unused or out of date medicines to the parent for safe disposal (by return to the dispensing or local pharmacy). Where this is not possible we will return medicines to the dispensing or local pharmacy.

We will dispose of medical waste in an appropriate manner. We will provide a medical waste bin, a sharps bin and a collection service if necessary.

Non-prescription medicines

In general we will only administer medicine that has been prescribed by a doctor, dentist or nurse or recommended by a nurse or pharmacist. Should children need painkillers (for e.g. migraine, period pain etc) we will consider making an agreement with parents where the parent grants consent and supplies the medication and we supervise the child. In such cases we will record parental consent on Form 1 and we will notify parents if the child takes a dose.

Sensible prescribing

We expect parents to obtain a prescription that does not need us to administer or supervise. For example some 'three times daily' medicine need not be supervised or administered in schools or settings as the recommended dosage can be taken before and after attending. Some 'four times daily' medicine will require supervision of the midday dose.

Controlled drugs

Some medicines are controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act and its associated regulations. The doctor prescribing these medicines is responsible for informing the parent that the medicine belongs to this category e.g. Methylphenadinate (Ritalin, Equasym). Any personnel administering these medicines should do so in exact accordance with the prescriber's instructions. Whilst it is lawful for children to carry prescribed controlled drugs it is our policy that controlled drugs are kept in a locked cabinet and managed by an appointed person.

Administration of these medicines must be checked and countersigned by two members of personnel. Records must be made on Form 3 for audit and safety purposes.

Religious faith

Some members of some religious faiths are opposed to the administration of certain medicines even in emergencies. These beliefs should be respected and Headteachers should consider the practical implications of these beliefs when making healthcare support agreements with parents.

Further advice on health conditions

Accessible and authoritative advice and links to charities and support groups are available from [NHS Choices](#).

Schools and settings must have a specific asthma policy and provide specific asthma training in conformance with that policy.

Monitoring and Review

The governing body may ask for information on the types of medication being given and the frequency to ensure appropriate staffing and support is being given. They will review this policy every 3 years unless there is a change in statutory guidance.

FORM 1

Parental consent and Support Plan

Note IT IS NOT LAWFUL to provide support unless a parent gives consent.

Name of school/setting	
Child's name	
Child's date of birth	
Medical diagnosis or condition	
Nature of support needed (e.g. self management, supervision or administration)	
Name and strength of medicine	
Side effects of medicine	
Dose to be given	
When to be given	
Any other instructions (e.g. emergency)	
Quantity of and frequency of medicine to be given to school/setting	
Medicine to be stored at (state exact location)	
Note: Medicines must be in the original container as dispensed by the pharmacy	
Daytime phone no. of parent	
Name and phone no. of GP	
Review date (max. quarterly)	
Signatures	
School/Setting Manager	Name: Signature: Date:
Parent	Name: Signature: Date:
Persons(s) appointed to provide support	Name: Signature: Date:

FORM 2
Parental consent and Health Care Plan

Name of school/setting	
Child's name	
Child's date of birth	
Child's address	
Medical diagnosis or condition	
Family Contact Information	
Name	
Phone no. (work)	
(home)	
(mobile)	
Name	
Phone no. (work)	
(home)	
(mobile)	
Clinic/Hospital Contact	
Name	
Phone no.	
G.P.	
Name	
Phone no.	

Describe medical needs and give details of child's symptoms

Daily care requirements (e.g. before sport/at lunchtime)

Describe what constitutes an emergency for the child and the action to be taken if this occurs

Follow up care

Who is responsible in an emergency (state if different in off-site activities)

Signatures

School/Setting Manager	Name: Signature: Date:
Parent	Name: Signature: Date:
Medical professional (e.g. school nurse)	Name: Signature: Date:
Persons(s) appointed to provide support	Name: Signature: Date:

FORM 3**Record of medical support provided**

Note a witness countersignature IS REQUIRED BY LAW if controlled drugs are administered

Receipt

School/setting	
Child	
Date medicine/materials provided by parent	
Quantity received	
Name and strength of medicine/materials	
Expiry date of medicine	
Quantity of medicine returned	
Dose and frequency of medicine	
Signature of appointed person taking receipt of medicine	Name: Signature: Date:
Signature of parent	Name: Signature: Date:

FORM 3 continued

Administration

Date			
Time given			
Dose given (indicate if refused)			
Appointed person giving dose/support			
Signature			

Date			
Time given			
Dose given (indicate if refused and request parent to countersign)			
Appointed person giving dose/support			
Signature			

Date			
Time given			
Dose given (indicate if refused)			
Appointed person giving dose/support			
Signature			