



Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy

(to be read in conjunction with administering medicines policy)¹

St George's Beneficial C of E Primary School is an inclusive community that welcomes and supports pupils with medical conditions. We ensure all pupils with any medical condition are offered the same opportunities as others at school.

We will help to ensure they can:

be healthy

stay safe

enjoy and achieve

make a positive contribution

achieve economic wellbeing once they left school.

St George's makes sure all staff understand their duty of care to children and young people in the event of an emergency. All staff are Paediatric first aid trained and in the school's general emergency procedures. St George's understands that certain medical conditions are serious and potentially life threatening, particularly if poorly managed or misunderstood. We understand the importance of medication and care being taken as directed by healthcare professionals and parents.

The governing body ensures that St George's consult health and social care professionals, pupils and parents and carers to ensure that the needs of children, with medical conditions, are met effectively.

All children with a medical condition at this school have an individual healthcare plan (IHP), which explains what help they need in an emergency. The IHP will accompany a pupil should they need to attend hospital. Parental permission will be sought and recorded in the IHP for sharing the IHP within emergency care settings.

The role of the Headteacher

The Headteacher ensures the policy is implemented effectively including responsibility for ensuring:-

- that staff are suitably trained to support a child with a specific medical condition
- that all relevant staff will be made aware of the child's condition,

- cover arrangements are in place in case of staff absence or staff turnover to ensure someone is always available to support a child with a specific medical condition
- supply teachers are briefed,
- risk assessments are undertaken for school visits, holidays, and other school activities outside of the normal timetable, and
- individual health care plans are monitored.

¹*St George's recognises that duties in the Children and Families Act (England only), the Equality Act (England, Wales and Scotland) and the Disability Discrimination Act (Northern Ireland only) relate to children with disability or medical conditions is anticipatory.*

The Role of Staff:

Any member of school staff may be asked to provide support to pupils with medical conditions, including the administering of medicines, although they cannot be required to do so. Although administering medicines is not part of teachers' professional duties, they should take into account the needs of pupils with medical conditions that they teach. School staff are to receive sufficient and suitable training and achieve the necessary level of competency before they take on responsibility to support children with medical conditions.

Teachers will take into account the needs of pupils with medical conditions that they teach. All staff will know what to do and respond accordingly when they become aware that a pupil with a medical condition needs help.

The Role of the School Nurse:

The school nursing services are responsible for notifying the school when a child has been identified as having a medical condition which will require support in school. Wherever possible, they should do this before the child starts at the school. They would not usually have an extensive role in ensuring that schools are taking appropriate steps to support children with medical conditions, but may support staff on implementing a child's individual healthcare plan and provide advice and liaison, for example on training.

The Role of other agencies:

Where appropriate the designated person will contact other agencies involved with the child or agencies that they consider may be able to offer advice to the school, child or family to contribute to the Health Care Plan or other documentation e.g Early Help if applicable

The role of the child with a medical condition:

Children with medical conditions can often tell us how the condition affects them. Where possible children will be fully involved in discussions

about their medical support needs and contribute as much as possible to the development of, and comply with, their IHP. Any such discussion will take account of the child's age and knowledge of his/her medical condition. Pupils who are competent will be encouraged to take responsibility for managing their own medical procedures. This will be stated on the IHP.

The role of the parents and carers of a child with medical needs in school:

Parents and carers – should provide the school with sufficient and up-to-date information about their child's medical needs. They may, in some cases, be the first to notify the school that their child has a medical condition. Parents and carers are key partners and will be involved in the development and review of their child's individual healthcare plan (IHP), and may be involved in its drafting. Parents will carry out actions they have agreed to as part of the implementation of the IHP eg provide medicines and equipment.

The role of the named person and Individual Health Care Plans is:

- to ensure that procedures are in place and followed when the school is notified that a pupil has a medical condition(Appendix 1)
- to be responsible for individual healthcare plans and their development and the use of these plans in supporting pupils with medical conditions in school.
- to review Individual Health Care plans at least annually or earlier if evidence is presented indicating the child's needs have changed. Plans will be developed with the child's best interests in mind and will assess and manage risks to the child's health and social well-being and minimise disruption to the child's education.

Individual Health Care Plans

The level of detail in the plan will depend on the complexity of the child's condition and how much support is needed. Where appropriate these will be written in conjunction with the lead clinician.

When deciding what information will be recorded on individual healthcare plans, the named person will consider the following:

- 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, other dietary requirements and environmental issues e.g. crowded corridors, lunchtime arrangements or play times
- specific support for the pupil's educational, social and emotional needs – for example, how absences will be managed, use of rest periods or additional support in catching up with lessons, counselling sessions;
- the level of support needed, (some children will be able to take responsibility for their own health needs), including in emergencies. If a child is self-managing their medication, this should be clearly stated with appropriate arrangements for monitoring;
- who will provide this 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 or carers and the head teacher for medication to be administered by a member of staff, or self-administered by the pupil during school hours; (see our Administering Medicines Policy)
- 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. risk assessments;
- where confidentiality issues are raised by the parent/carers or child, the designated individuals to be entrusted with information about the child's condition;

- what to do in an emergency, including who to contact and contingency arrangements.

In order that the needs of our children with medical conditions are met we will:

- teach them to ask an adult if they feel they need their support, eg inhaler or medication, outside of their normal administration time
- train/brief staff to ensure that they are clear about a child's needs and condition and understand that children with the same condition do not necessarily require the same treatment
- listen to the views and opinions of the child, the parents/carers and the medical evidence/opinion (although this may be challenged)
- not send children with medical conditions home unnecessarily or prevent them from staying for normal school activities, including lunch and after school clubs, unless specified in their individual health care plan
- take into account their condition when reviewing the child's attendance record if their absences are related to their medical needs e.g. hospital appointments
- ensure that the child has access to the toilet, food and drink or can take other breaks whenever they need to in order to manage their medical condition
- depending on the age and competency of the child they may carry their own inhalers when out of the classroom.
- work with the child's parents/carers so that they don't feel obliged to come into school or to take time off of work to administer medicine or provide medical support to their child
- ensure that we do not prevent children from participating or create unnecessary barriers to children participating in any aspect of school life²

If a pupil needs to attend hospital, a member of staff (preferably known to the pupil) will stay with them until a parent arrives, or accompany a child taken to hospital by ambulance. A member of staff may drive to the St Mary's 'drop in' unit as long as accompanied with another adult.

This school disposes of needles, sharps and bodily fluids through medical waste bins which are collected regularly, in line with local policies.

Managing Medicines

For administration of medicines please read the administering medicines policy.

Where a medical need involves a controlled drug additional precautions will be in place to ensure this can not be passed to another pupil. Controlled drugs are kept in the medical room and only staff have access. Strict records will be kept of any doses and amount held.

Equal opportunities

Our school is clear about the need to actively support pupils with medical conditions to participate in school trips and visits, or in sporting activities, and not prevent them from doing so.

The school will consider what reasonable adjustments need to be made to enable these pupils to participate fully and safely on school trips, visits and sporting activities.

Risk assessments will be carried out so that planning arrangements take account of any steps needed to ensure that pupils with medical conditions are included. In doing so, pupils, their parents and any relevant healthcare professionals will be consulted.

This policy meets the requirements under [Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014](#), which places a duty on governing boards to make arrangements for supporting pupils at their school with medical conditions.

It is also based on the Department for Education's statutory guidance: [Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions](#).

Policy to be monitored by HT and Governors

Policy reviewed May 2022

To be reviewed May 2025

²*St George's may request parents/carers to accompany their child on a school trip*

Appendix 1: Being notified a child has a medical condition

