Supporting Pupils with Medical Needs Policy

Author: HCC Model Policy

Approval: Full Governing Body

Date: July 2025

Next Review: July 2026

Introduction

In line with the duty, which came into force on 1st September 2014, to support pupils at school with medical conditions we are committed to ensuring that all children with medical conditions, in terms of both physical and mental health, are properly supported at Castle Primary School so that they can play a full and active role in school life, remain healthy and achieve their academic potential.

No child with a medical condition will be denied admission or prevented from taking up a place in our school because arrangements for their medical condition have not been made.

We will ensure that pupils' health is not put at unnecessary risk from, for example, infectious diseases therefore we will not accept a child in school at times where it would be detrimental to the health of that child or others to do so.

This policy will be reviewed regularly, and it is readily accessible to parents and school staff.

Policy implementation

The named person, who has overall responsibility for policy implementation, is Justin Bartlett.

They will

- ensure that sufficient staff are suitably trained;
- ensure that all relevant staff will be made aware of the child's condition;
- cover arrangements in case of staff absence or staff turnover to ensure someone is always available;
- brief supply teachers;
- carry out risk assessments for school visits, holidays, and other school activities outside the normal timetable;
- and
- monitor individual healthcare plans.
- Procedure to be followed when notification is received that a pupil has a medical condition
- When our school is notified that a pupil has a medical condition we will:
- make arrangements for any staff training or support
- make every effort to ensure that arrangements are put in place within two weeks
- not wait for a formal diagnosis before providing support to pupils

Individual healthcare plans

Our school will send home a health questionnaire. Any parent reporting that their child has an ongoing medical condition such as asthma, epilepsy, diabetes or more complex medical condition will be asked to complete an Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP). It is a legal requirement that this is updated annually. At our school we will ensure that plans are reviewed at least annually, or earlier if evidence is presented that the child's needs have changed. We will assess and manage risks to the child's education, health and social wellbeing, and minimises disruption.

Our IHP (see appendix A) requires information about:

- 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 – for example, how absences will be managed, requirements for extra time to complete exams, use of rest periods or additional support in catching up with lessons, counselling sessions;
- the level of support needed (NB 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 and the headteacher for medication to be administered by a member of staff, or self-administered by the pupil during school hours;
- 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;
- 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 development of their individual healthcare plan.

Roles and responsibilities

At our school those people involved in arrangements to support pupils at school with medical conditions include:

- Justin Bartlett, Headteacher
- Angela Thomas, Deputy Headteacher
- Nadine Ricketts, Inclusion Lead
- Lucy Francis, School First Aider

Staff training and support

Staff are supported in carrying out their role to support pupils with medical conditions through appropriate training (see training record appendix 2). Training needs are assessed regularly and training will be accessed through HTLC.

Any member of school staff providing support to a pupil with medical needs will have received suitable training.

No member of staff will give prescription medicines or undertake healthcare procedures without appropriate training or instruction (updated to reflect requirements within individual healthcare plans).

The child's role in managing their own medical needs

Where children are deemed competent to manage their own health needs and medicines by their parents and medical professional they will be supported to do this. We see this as an important step towards preparing pupils for the next stage of their education.

Managing medicines on school premises

At our school:

- 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
- we will never give medicine containing aspirin unless prescribed by a doctor.
- Medication, e.g. for pain relief will never be administered without first checking maximum dosages and when the previous dose was taken.
- Parents will be informed
- where clinically possible, we will expect that medicines will be prescribed in dose frequencies which enable them to be taken outside school hours
- we will only accept prescribed medicines if they are:
    - are in-date
    - are labelled
    - are provided in the original container as dispensed by a pharmacist
    - include instructions for administration, dosage and storage. (NB The exception to this is insulin, which must still be in date, but will generally be available to schools inside an insulin pen or a pump, rather than in its original container)
- all medicines will be stored safely.
- Children will know where their medicines are at all times and will be able to access them immediately. Where relevant, they will know who holds the key to the storage facility. Medicines and devices such as asthma inhalers, blood glucose testing meters and adrenaline pens will be always readily available to children and not locked away, including when pupils are outside the school premises, e.g. on school trips
- when no longer required, medicines will be returned to the parent to arrange for safe disposal. Sharps boxes will always be used for the disposal of needles and other sharps
- school staff will administer a controlled drug to the child for whom it has been prescribed. Staff administering medicines will do so in accordance with the prescriber's instructions.
- We will keep a record of all medicines administered to individual children, stating what, how and how much was administered, when and by whom. Any side effects of the medication to be administered at school will be noted in school

Non-prescribed medicines

At our school we will not administer non-prescription medicines with the exception of paracetamol, in liquid or tablet form, bite & sting spray and antihistamine, topical creams and certain eye drops.

We will also keep a small stock of homely remedies, such as parents may have at home, which will include:

- Liquid paracetamol (Calpol)
- Sun cream
- Bite and sting spray

These will only be administered when it would be detrimental to the child not to give and only with your permission.

Record keeping

We will ensure that written records are kept of all medicines administered to children. We recognise that records offer protection to staff and children and provide evidence that agreed procedures have been followed. Parents will be informed if their child has been unwell at school.

Emergency procedures

Our school's policy sets out what should happen in an emergency situation:
Where a child has an individual healthcare plan, this will clearly define what constitutes an emergency and provide a process to follow. All relevant staff will be made aware of the emergency symptoms and procedures. We will ensure other children in the school know what to do in the event of an emergency ie. informing a teacher immediately if they are concerned about the health of another child.
Where a child is required to be taken to hospital, a member of staff will stay with the child until their parents arrives, this includes accompanying them to hospital by ambulance if necessary (taking any relevant medical information, care plans etc that the school holds).

Day trips, residential visits and sporting activities

We always actively support pupils with medical conditions to participate in school trips and visits, or in sporting activities, and not prevent them from doing so.
As a school we believe it to be unacceptable 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 frequently for reasons associated with their medical condition or prevent them from staying for normal school activities, including lunch, unless this is specified in their individual healthcare plans;
- 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;
- 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. No parent should have to give up working because the school

is failing to support their child's medical needs; or prevent children from participating, or create unnecessary barriers to children participating in any aspect of school life, including school trips, e.g. by requiring parents to accompany the child

Liability and indemnity

Maintained schools and academies with a SLA with HCC will be insured as long as all appropriate training and risk assessment has taken place
Proprietors of academies should ensure that either the appropriate level of insurance is in place or that the academy is a member of the Department for Education's Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA).

Complaints

If you have a complaint about how your child's medical condition is being supported in school please contact the Headteacher and the Chair of Governors in the first instance.

Emergency Asthma Inhalers

Since 2015 schools may hold asthma inhalers for emergency use. This is entirely voluntary, and the Department of Health has published a protocol which provides further information. As a school we have agreed to purchase and keep emergency inhalers. These will only be used for those children who are already prescribed asthma inhalers. They will only be used in an emergency and at all times the school will seek to use the child's prescribed inhaler if possible.

Appendices

Appendix B - Administration of Medicines Risk Assessment
Appendix C - Medication Tracking Form
Appendix D – Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions: Templates
Appendix E - Health Questionnaire for Schools
Appendix F - Process for Identifying Children with a Medical Condition

Appendix B

Activity	Administration of Medicines	Date of Assessment	
Location		Date of Review	
Name of Risk Assessor		Risk assessment subject to.	Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations

This risk assessment template can be used for specialist areas where a model template does not exist. .

Instructions for Use: This blank risk assessment should be used for any area where there is not already a template risk assessment in place. You will need to ensure that you have identified the common hazards and recognised those people who could be at risk and whether they have any individual requirements. Consider all of the standard controls i.e. those things you need to do to reduce the risk and then confirm all of the standard controls are in place. Check if there is anything further that you may need to do. If all of these components are completed the level of risk for these hazards will have been reduced to the lowest acceptable level. An action plan should be completed if further mitigation is required following the assessment.

Original risk assessments must be kept for a period of 7 years. On completion a hard copy should be printed off and placed in your local/site health and safety folder.
This document should be filed under Hantsfile under Health and Safety Risk Assessment

Administration of Medicines Risk Assessment Guidance
The Supporting Pupils with Medical Needs document produced by the DfE and published in September 2014 for implementing into schools, includes the provision of administration of medicines to pupils.

The school Governors must ensure that a local policy on supporting pupils with medical needs is produced and implemented in the school.

This risk assessment should be completed as part of the process to assist in identifying the specific hazards and control measure that need to be put in place to ensure medication is administered, managed and stored safely and effectively in schools by competent staff.

The hazards and controls measures have been entered into the form however, schools must ensure that they complete the second box titled “Who Might be Harmed and How” by identifying who at the school

may be harmed by the hazard, eg. children with medical needs and in same box you should be considering how they might be harmed, ie. what the risk is from the identified hazard and enter this information into the same box.

You must then review the control measures that have already been entered in to the third box and enter into the box titled “Do you need to do anything else to manage the risk” any further measures that need to be implemented locally to ensure that the control measures are met and therefore the risk reduced to a manageable level. If anything else is identified locally to manage the risk the following boxes “Action by Whom”, “Action by When” and “Done” must also be completed. The information should then be transferred onto the action plan at the end of the risk assessment form and used as a live document until all actions have been completed.

An example has been entered in it’s entirety to demonstrate how to completed the form correctly. If this process is followed for all the identified hazards correctly the level of risk should be reduced to lowest possible point.

Once the risk assessment is complete and to ensure that is effective it should be shared with all relevant staff and reviewed periodically.

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing?	Do you need to do anything else to manage this risk?	Action by whom?	Action by when?	Done
Policy/Procedures Lack of policy/procedures Lack of clarity and staff awareness of policy and procedures Failure to follow policy/procedures		Local administration of medicines policy documented for premises Administration of medicines policy provided to staff at induction and periodically thereafter Investigation procedure in place in the event of failure e.g. refresher training, disciplinary procedures or review of policy				

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing?	Do you need to do anything else to manage this risk?	Action by whom?	Action by when?	Done
<u>Training</u> Lack of awareness training to safely administer medicines e.g. asthmas, epi-pen etc. Lack of awareness training in control and storage of medication Lack of specific awareness training to meet individual needs of children on the premises		Periodic awareness training provided for medical conditions such as asthma or epi-pen etc. by a competent person e.g. school nurse or other medical professional Induction awareness training on local storage procedures and periodic refresher information provided (annually) to relevant staff e.g. policy/procedures Questionnaire (provided by School Nursing Team) to be completed by parents/guardian for pupils on admission to school to ensure medical needs are identified Periodic training provided for specific medical conditions by competent person e.g. school nurse or other medical professional				

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing?	Do you need to do anything else to manage this risk?	Action by whom?	Action by when?	Done
Administration Incorrect dosage given Incorrect pupil given medication Out of date medication administered		Medication to be provided in the original container/labelled with the name of the appropriate pupil and dose required Local procedure for checking name and dosage on medication prior to administration Part of local procedure should be to review expiry date prior to administering medication				
Controlled Drugs Any specific procedures		Only trained staff to administer medication				

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing?	Do you need to do anything else to manage this risk?	Action by whom?	Action by when?	Done
<u>Storage</u> No locked cabinet or room in use/available prescribed medicines and controlled drugs not locked away e.g. stored in pigeonholes No secure refrigerator available/in use Medicines not in original containers or clearly labelled Emergency medicines locked away		Locked cabinet (not easily removable) or lockable room for use of storing all medication Ideally a dedicated refrigerator should be used which is in a secure location. If a normal refrigerator is used medicine must be stored in a separate sealed container and clearly labelled Medicines to be provided in the original container labelled with the name of the appropriate pupil All emergency medicines (asthma inhalers, epi-pens etc.) readily available and not locked away.				

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing?	Do you need to do anything else to manage this risk?	Action by whom?	Action by when?	Done
Consent Lack of parents consent Inappropriate person providing consent Limited information on consent form (leading to lack of clarity) Formal consent forms not used		Parental consent forms to be completed using standard template, provided by department and fully completed by a parent or guardian of child only, providing all relevant information requested				

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing?	Do you need to do anything else to manage this risk?	Action by whom?	Action by when?	Done
Health Care Plans School unaware that child has health issues requiring monitoring in school No health care plans in place Lack of involvement of family and health care professionals Lack of awareness of health care plan by relevant staff		Process in place for identifying a child who has health issues that require monitoring in school i.e. identifying Children with Health Conditions questionnaire A health care plan must be devised when required in conjunction with appropriate medical practitioner, parents, guardian and Headteacher using standard forms provided by department Health care plans to be provided to all relevant staff				

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing?	Do you need to do anything else to manage this risk?	Action by whom?	Action by when?	Done
<u>Record Keeping and Communication</u> No record of medicines being administered		Recording forms to be used when medication is administered, which includes information such as parent consent forms, record of prescribed medicines given to a child, staff training awareness record forms				
No tracking system for medication received in and out of premise		Tracking system to be implemented to log when medication is received in and out of premises. This is to be used for every medication administered Tracking system should include the expiry date for medication to enable periodical checks to be carried out, unless another system has been implemented Procedure in place to check with parents when expiry dates are exceeded				

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing?	Do you need to do anything else to manage this risk?	Action by whom?	Action by when?	Done
		Reminder system in place for informing parents of their responsibility of ensuring medication is not expired e.g. newsletter				
Disposal of Medication Medication not disposed of responsibly		Parents responsibility to safely dispose of medication school has returned to parent				

Action Plan for Risk Assessment

Action Plan to be completed based on the findings of risk assessment. The following actions are to be undertaken to reduce the risk level as far as reasonably practical and to ensure that all of the standard controls and local arrangements are in place.

No.	Hazard not fully controlled	Performance Status **Imminent** High Medium Low **Very low**	Action required	Person Responsible	Target Date	Date of Completion
1.						
2.						
3.						
4.						
5.						
6.						
7.						
8.						

Signature of Responsible Manager.....

Date.....

APPENDIX C Castle Primary School

MEDICATION TRACKING FORM

NAME OF CHILD	MEDICATION	MEDICATION EXPIRY DATE	DATE RECEIVED IN SCHOOL	DATE RETURNED TO PARENT/OR MEDICATION FINISHED	STAFF NAME	SIGNATURE

Department for Education

APPENDIX D

Templates

Supporting pupils with medical conditions

May 2014

Template A: individual healthcare plan

Name of school/setting	
Child's name	
Group/class/form	
Date of birth	
Child's address	
Medical diagnosis or condition	
Date	
Review date	

Family Contact Information

Name	
Phone no. (work)	
(home)	
(mobile)	
Name	
Relationship to child	
Phone no. (work)	
(home)	
(mobile)	

Clinic/Hospital Contact

Name	
Phone no.	

G.P.

Name	
Phone no.	

Who is responsible for providing support in school	

Describe medical needs and give details of child's symptoms, triggers, signs, treatments, facilities, equipment or devices, environmental issues etc

Name of medication, dose, method of administration, when to be taken, side effects, contra-indications, administered by/self-administered with/without supervision

Daily care requirements

Specific support for the pupil's educational, social and emotional needs

Arrangements for school visits/trips etc

Other information

Describe what constitutes an emergency, and the action to take if this occurs

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

Plan developed with

Staff training needed/undertaken – who, what, when

Form copied to

Template B: parental agreement for setting to administer medicine

The school/setting will not give your child medicine unless you complete and sign this form, and the school or setting has a policy that the staff can administer medicine.

Date for review to be initiated by	
Name of school/setting	
Name of child	
Date of birth	
Group/class/form	
Medical condition or illness	

Medicine

Name/type of medicine *(as described on the container)*	
Expiry date	
Dosage and method	
Timing	
Special precautions/other instructions	
Are there any side effects that the school/setting needs to know about?	
Self-administration – y/n	
Procedures to take in an emergency	

NB: Medicines must be in the original container as dispensed by the pharmacy

Contact Details

Name	
Daytime telephone no.	
Relationship to child	
Address	
I understand that I must deliver the medicine personally to	[agreed member of staff]

The above information is, to the best of my knowledge, accurate at the time of writing and I give consent to school/setting staff administering medicine in accordance with the school/setting policy. I will inform the school/setting immediately, in writing, if there is any change in dosage or frequency of the medication or if the medicine is stopped.

Signature(s) _____ Date _____

Template C: record of medicine administered to an individual child

Name of school/setting	
Name of child	
Date medicine provided by parent	
Group/class/form	
Quantity received	
Name and strength of medicine	
Expiry date	
Quantity returned	
Dose and frequency of medicine	

Staff signature _____

Signature of parent_____

Date			
Time given			
Dose given			
Name of member of staff			
Staff initials			

Date			
Time given			
Dose given			
Name of member of staff			
Staff initials			

C: Record of medicine administered to an individual child (Continued)

Date			
Time given			
Dose given			
Name of member of staff			
Staff initials			

Date			
Time given			
Dose given			
Name of member of staff			
Staff initials			

Date			
Time given			
Dose given			
Name of member of staff			
Staff initials			

Date			
Time given			
Dose given			
Name of member of staff			
Staff initials			

Template D: record of medicine administered to all children

Name of school/setting

Date	Child's name	Time	Name of medicine	Dose given	Any reactions	Signature of staff	Print name

Template E: staff training record – administration of medicines

Name of school/setting	
Name	
Type of training received	
Date of training completed	
Training provided by	
Profession and title	

I confirm that [name of member of staff] has received the training detailed above and is competent to carry out any necessary treatment. I recommend that the training is updated [name of member of staff].

Trainer's signature _____

Date _____

I confirm that I have received the training detailed above.

Staff signature _____

Date _____

Suggested review date _____

Template F: contacting emergency services

Request an ambulance - dial 999, ask for an ambulance and be ready with the information below.

Speak clearly and slowly and be ready to repeat information if asked.

1. your telephone number
2. your name
3. your location as follows [insert school/setting address]
4. state what the postcode is – please note that postcodes for satellite navigation systems may differ from the postal code
5. provide the exact location of the patient within the school setting
6. provide the name of the child and a brief description of their symptoms
7. inform Ambulance Control of the best entrance to use and state that the crew will be met and taken to the patient
8. put a completed copy of this form by the phone

Template G: model letter inviting parents to contribute to individual healthcare plan development

Dear Parent

DEVELOPING AN INDIVIDUAL HEALTHCARE PLAN FOR YOUR CHILD

Thank you for informing us of your child's medical condition. I enclose a copy of the school's policy for supporting pupils at school with medical conditions for your information.

A central requirement of the policy is for an individual healthcare plan to be prepared, setting out what support the each pupil needs and how this will be provided. Individual healthcare plans are developed in partnership between the school, parents, pupils, and the relevant healthcare professional who can advise on your child's case. The aim is to ensure that we know how to support your child effectively and to provide clarity about what needs to be done, when and by whom. Although individual healthcare plans are likely to be helpful in the majority of cases, it is possible that not all children will require one. We will need to make judgements about how your child's medical condition impacts on their ability to participate fully in school life, and the level of detail within plans will depend on the complexity of their condition and the degree of support needed.

A meeting to start the process of developing your child's individual health care plan has been scheduled for xx/xx/xx. I hope that this is convenient for you and would be grateful if you could confirm whether you are able to attend. The meeting will involve [the following people]. Please let us know if you would like us to invite another medical practitioner, healthcare professional or specialist and provide any other evidence you would like us to consider at the meeting as soon as possible.

If you are unable to attend, it would be helpful if you could complete the attached individual healthcare plan template and return it, together with any relevant evidence, for consideration at the meeting. I [or another member of staff involved in plan development or pupil support] would be happy for you contact me [them] by email or to speak by phone if this would be helpful.

Yours sincerely