Grove School

Policy for children with health needs who cannot attend school

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We believe this policy should be a working document that is fit for purpose, represents the school ethos, enables consistency and quality across the school and is related to the following legislation:

Medicines Act 1968
Misuse of Drugs Act 1971
Health and Safety Act 1974
Children Act 1989
Education Act 1996
Education Act 2002
Children Act 2004
The NHS Act 2006
Equality Act 2010
School Premises (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended)
Children and Families Act 2014
Special Educational Needs and Disability (Amendment) Regulations 2015 T

The following documentation is also related to this policy:
Equality Act 2010: Advice for Schools (DfE)
The Special Needs and Disability (SEND) Code of Practice
Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions (DfE)

Our ethos and values

Grove school supports and welcomes pupils with long and short-term medical conditions. We will not deny admission to any child with a medical condition or prevent them from taking up a place if arrangements for their medical condition have not been made. We have a legal duty under the Children and Families Act 2014 to support pupils with long term medical conditions such as diabetes, asthma and epilepsy, and we will ensure that these children have full access to the curriculum, all sporting activities and educational visits so that they can play a full and active role in school.

We work closely with parents/carers, health and social care professionals, the local authority, commissioners and other support services to ensure effective individual medical care plans, monitoring, reviewing and updating procedures are in place and to ensure children with medical conditions receive a full education.

We understand individual medical care plans will be drawn up in partnership between the school, parents, pupil and a relevant healthcare professional.

We want parents to feel confident and reassured that we are providing effective support for their child's medical condition that involves:

- having in place risk assessments for all school activities on and off-site
- having good links with local health and social care services
- allowing children easy access to their inhalers and medication
- administering medication when and where necessary
- not ignoring the views of children, parents and medical professionals
- allowing children to participate in all curriculum, sporting and school activities
- aiding when a child becomes ill
- allowing children with medical conditions to take drinking, eating or toilet breaks when and where necessary
- not penalising a child for poor attendance due to their medical condition
- supporting and dealing with children's social and emotional problems linked to their medical condition
- building confidence and promoting self-care
- having in place sufficient school staff that are suitably trained

- ensuring all relevant school personnel including supply teachers are aware of individual children's medical condition

We are aware that we have a common law duty to act in loco parentis and we will take the necessary action in an emergency whether it is on or off-site. Under no circumstances will a member of the school staff administer prescription medicines or undertake healthcare procedures without appropriate training.

We ensure the physical school environment is accessible, inclusive and favourable to pupils with short- and long-term medical conditions when undertaking all school activities in or out of school time.

Our aims

- To support pupils with long-term medical conditions such as diabetes, asthma and epilepsy.
- To ensure pupils with long-term medical conditions have full access to education, all sporting activities and educational visits so that they can play a full and active role in school.
- To ensure effective individual health care plans are in place.
- To ensure compliance with all relevant legislation connected to this policy.
- To work with other schools and the local authority to share good practice in order to improve this policy.

Responsibility of the Governing Body

The Governing Body has:

Responsibility for ensuring 'that arrangements are in place in schools to support pupils at school with medical conditions';

- appointed a member of staff to be responsible for coordinating supporting pupils with long term medical conditions;
- responsibility for ensuring that the Headteacher 'consults health and social care professionals, pupils and parents to ensure that the needs of children with medical conditions are properly understood and effectively supported';
- delegated powers and responsibilities to the Headteacher to ensure all school personnel and stakeholders are aware of and comply with this policy;
- responsibility for ensuring full compliance with all statutory responsibilities;
- responsibility for ensuring that children with long-term medical conditions have the same rights to admission as other children;
- responsibility for ensuring individual health care plans, procedures and systems are properly and effectively implemented; responsibility for ensuring training is in place for relevant school personnel who support children with long-term medical conditions;
- responsibility for ensuring that the school complies with all equality's legislation;
- responsibility for ensuring this policy and all policies are maintained and updated regularly;
- responsibility for ensuring all policies are made available to parents.

Role of the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team

The Headteacher and the Senior Leadership Team will:

- ensure all necessary arrangements are in place for all new pupils;
- provide the necessary support for pupils with long-term medical conditions;
- ensure all pupils with long-term medical conditions have full access to the curriculum, all sporting activities and school activities;
- ensure individual healthcare plans are in place to ensure that pupils with medical conditions are effectively supported;
- ensure relevant school staff (full-time and supply teachers) are made aware of children with long-term medical conditions;

- ensure relevant school staff are made aware of all individual medical care plans;
- monitor all individual medical care plans;
- ensure appropriate school staff are trained in first aid and in the use of the defibrillator in order to deal with sudden cardiac arrest;
- ensure that sufficiently trained school personnel are in place to deliver individual medical care plans;
- contact the school nursing service when a child with a medical condition needs support;
- bring to the attention of the school nurse any child who has a medical condition that may require support at school;
- ensure school staff do not prevent children with medical conditions: taking a full part in all school activities ♦ having full access to the curriculum ♦ accessing their inhalers and medication ♦ administering their medication when and where necessary
- ensure school staff do not: ♦ assume that every child with the same medical condition requires the same treatment ♦ ignore the views of children or parents ♦ send pupils who feel ill to the school office/medical room unattended or by someone unqualified ♦ penalise the attendance record of pupils ♦ prevent pupils managing their medical condition effectively ♦ expect parents to administer their child's medication ♦ expect parents to provide medical support for their child ♦ expect parents to accompany their child on educational visits;
- ensure transitional arrangements between schools are in place;
- ensure if a child's needs change then all relevant staff are made aware of these changes;
- ensure parents are aware of the complaints process;
- ensure all school personnel, pupils and parents are aware of and comply with this policy;
- provide leadership and vision in respect of equality;
- provide guidance, support and training to all staff;
- monitor the effectiveness of this policy by speaking with pupils, school personnel, parents and governors;

Role of Parents/Carers Parents/carers:

- be aware of and comply with this policy;
- inform the school if their child has a medical condition;
- work in partnership with the school;
- provide up to date medical information of their child's condition;
- be involved in discussions regarding medical support and individual healthcare plan for their child;
- provide the appropriate medication for the school to administer;
- ensure medications are in good supply;
- provide any specialist equipment;
- ensure their contact details are kept up to date;
- ensure that all emergency contacts are current;
- made aware of the complaints procedures policy if they should need to use it;
- comply with this policy for the benefit of their children.

School staff:

- comply with all aspects of this policy;
- not administer medications without the appropriate training;
- not undertake healthcare procedures without the appropriate training;
- implement the school's equalities policy and schemes;
- report and deal with all incidents of discrimination;
- attend appropriate training sessions

Pupils:

- be aware of and comply with this policy;
- if age appropriate, be involved in discussions regarding their medical support and individual healthcare plan, if age appropriate;
- after discussions with parents/carers be encouraged to manage their own health needs and medications;
- have access to their own medicines and relevant devices.

What do we do if a pupil cannot attend school due to their health needs?

Initially, we will attempt to plan to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school.

The Head Teacher and/or Assistant Head teacher will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements.

A meeting will be made with parents / carers to discuss arrangements for working from home or hospital.

A plan will be drawn up detailing agreed actions from the discussion, the plan will be signed by school and parents / carers.

The plan will then be carried out to deliver education to the child. Arrangements could include sending work home, attending a hospital school

The pupil will be slowly integrated back into school with either alternative arrangements to make it possible such as alternative provision for break or lunch times or the pupil may come back into school on a reduced timetable until their health needs have been met.

The Local Authority

Role and responsibilities of the local authority

1. LAs are responsible for arranging suitable full-time education for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would not receive suitable education without such provision.
2. This applies whether or not the child is on the roll of a school and whatever the type of school they attend. It applies to children who are pupils in Academies, Free Schools, special schools and independent schools as well as those in maintained schools.
3. The law does not define full-time education but children with health needs should have provision which is equivalent to the education they would receive in school. If they receive one-to-one tuition, for example, the hours of face-to-face provision could be fewer as the provision is more concentrated.
4. Where full-time education would not be in the best interests of a particular child because of reasons relating to their physical or mental health, LAs should provide part-time education on a basis they consider to be in the child's best interests. Full and part-time education should still aim to achieve good academic attainment particularly in English, Maths and Science.
5. The LA should: Have a named officer responsible for the education of children with additional health needs, and parents should know who that person is. Have a written, publicly accessible policy statement on their arrangements to comply with their legal duty towards children with additional health needs. The policy should make links with related services in the area - for example, Special Educational Needs and Disability Services (SEND), Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), Education Welfare/Attendance Improvement Services, educational psychologists, and, where relevant, school nurses. Review the provision offered regularly to ensure that it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education. Have clear policies on the provision of education for children and young people under and over compulsory school age.