

St Anthony's Catholic Primary School  
**Supporting Pupils with Medical Needs**

Adopted: September 2014

Review date: September 2015

Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014 places a duty on governing bodies of maintained schools to make arrangements for supporting pupils at their school with medical conditions. In meeting the duty, the governing body must have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State under this section. Section 100 will come into force on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014.

All documents relating to the support of pupils with medical needs are taken from the document by the Department for Education (May 2014) 'Templates: Supporting pupils with medical conditions' :

*Template A: individual healthcare plan (healthcare plans may also be devised by the School Nurse or other healthcare professionals in consultation with parents/ carers and school staff)*

*Template B: parental agreement for setting to administer medicine*

*Template C: record of medicine administered to an individual*

*Template D: record of medicine administered to all children*

*Template E: staff training record - administration of medicines*

*Template F: contacting emergency services*

*Template G: model letter inviting parents to contribute to individual health care plan development*

**The School Administrator responsible for collating information about pupil's medical conditions and needs is: Mrs Florence Squire**

**The Assistant Head Teacher/ Inclusion Manager who liaises with the School Administrator for pupils with medical needs is: Mrs Kirstin Macdonald**

### **Introduction and General Principles**

The staff and governors of St Anthony's Primary School are wholly committed to pursuing a policy of inclusive education that welcomes and supports pupils with medical conditions. This policy is designed to support the management of medication and medical care in school and to support individual pupils with medical needs. The policy complies with '**Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions**' (Department for Education, 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014).

## **Rationale and Aims**

To provide a clear policy that is understood and accepted by all staff, parents and children, providing a sound basis for ensuring that children with medical needs receive proper care and support in school, and that for such children attendance is as regular as possible.

The policy includes:

- A clear statement of parental responsibilities in respect of medicines
- Roles and responsibilities of staff administering medicines
- Procedures for managing prescription medicines which need to be taken in the school day
- Procedures for managing prescription medicines on outings and trips
- Written permissions from parents for medicines
- Circumstances in which children may take non-prescription medicines
- Assisting children with long term medical needs
- Staff training
- Record keeping
- Safe storage of medicines
- The school's emergency procedures
- Risk assessment and management procedures
- Management of medical conditions

## **Responsibilities**

Parents/carers have prime responsibility for their child's health and should provide the school with up to date information about their child's medical conditions, treatment and/or any special care needed.

If their child has a more complex medical condition, they should work with the school nurse or other health professionals to develop an individual healthcare plan, which will include an agreement on the role of the school in managing any medical needs and potential emergencies.

It is the parent/carer's responsibility to make sure that their child is well enough to attend school. The school may also take the decision that a child is not well enough to attend school and may be sent home.

There is no legal duty which requires school staff to administer medication; this is a voluntary role. While teachers have a general professional duty to safeguard the health and safety of their pupils and to act in 'loco parentis', that is, to act as any reasonable parent would, this does not imply a duty or obligation to administer medication.

All staff, including those in Breakfast Club and After School Club, will have access to information on pupils' medical conditions and actions to take in an emergency.

Staff managing the administration of medicines and those who administer medicines will receive appropriate training and support from health professionals.

The policy of this school is not to administer medication or medical care unless the pupil has a medical condition, which if not managed, could prove detrimental to their health or limit access to education. The head teacher accepts responsibility, in principle, for school staff administering or supervising the taking of prescribed medication or medical care during the school day only where it is absolutely necessary.

### **Prescribed Medicines**

Prescribed medicines should only be brought to school when essential; that is, where it would be detrimental to a child's health if the medicine were not administered during the school day.

Medicines prescribed 'three times a day or four times a day' should be administered before school and after school. This school recognises in extreme cases (as stipulated by a doctor in writing), and agreed by the head teacher, that staff may administer medication following completion of Template B, with a supporting letter from the doctor. Without a letter from a doctor, staff will not administer medicines prescribed to be taken three or four times a day. However, parents and carers are allowed into school to administer medication if they so desire.

Exceptions to this are pupils on health care plans who have individual medical needs requiring emergency medication to treat specific conditions, such as anaphylaxis.

This school will only accept medicines that have been prescribed by a doctor, dentist, nurse prescriber or pharmacist prescriber and are presented in the original container dispensed by a pharmacist and include the pupil's name, prescriber's instructions for administration and dosage.

### **Non-prescribed Medicines**

Non-prescribed medicines will only be administered with prior written permission from parents in extreme circumstances such as residential trips. Staff will check the medicine has previously been administered without adverse effect and Template B must be completed. Staff will never administer medicines containing aspirin unless prescribed by a doctor. Staff will never administer medication containing ibuprofen to children who are asthmatic.

### **Administering Medicines**

This school recognises no child under 16 should be given medicines without their parent's written consent. Following written consent using Template B, any member of staff administering medicines to a pupil should check:

- The child's name
- Name of medication
- The prescribed dose

- Expiry date
- Written instructions provided by the prescriber on the label or container

If in doubt about any procedure, staff will not administer the medicine before checking with parents or a health professional before taking further action.

A written record must be kept following administration of medicines to pupils, using Template C.

If a child refuses to take a medicine, staff will not force them to do so, but will record this on Template C and parents/carers will be notified of the refusal.

### **Long Term Medical Needs**

Where a pupil has a chronic illness, medical or potentially life threatening condition, the school will initiate a health care plan to meet individual needs and support the pupil. This will be drawn up by health care professionals in consultation with the child's parents or guardians and will contain the following information:

- Definition and details of the condition
- Special requirements e.g. dietary needs, pre-activity precautions
- Treatment and medication
- What action to take/not to take in an emergency
- Who to contact in an emergency
- Staff training where required
- The role the staff can play
- Consent and agreement

### **Record Keeping**

Parents/ carers should tell the school about the medicines their child needs to take and provide details of any changes to the prescription or the support required. Medicines should always be provided in the original container as dispensed by the pharmacist and include the prescriber's instructions.

Requests for staff to administer medication should be written on Template B.

These should include:

- Name of child
- Name of medicine
- Dose
- Method of administration
- Time/frequency of medication
- Any side effects
- Expiry date

Completed forms should be kept in the child's medical file in the school office and referred to when administering medication. Template C must be completed by staff following administration; this should also be kept in the medical records held in the school office. If a child refuses medication, this must be recorded on Template C and parents should be notified.

Requests for updated medical conditions including asthma are distributed to parents at the beginning of each school year. These are collated by the School Administrator and registered and recorded in each child's medical file. All staff have access to this information and actions to take in an emergency.

Children with food allergies have their photographs and details displayed in the school kitchen and staff room to ensure that food products are safe for children.

Updated medical conditions and reviews of policies and practice are monitored and disseminated by the Inclusion Manager and School Administrator as they are presented.

### **Storing Medicines**

Staff will only store, supervise and administer medicine that has been prescribed for an individual child. Medicines must be stored safely in the pharmacist's original container and clearly labelled with the child's name, the dosage and instructions for administration.

Non-emergency prescribed medication is stored with the consent Template B in the school office. Medication requiring refrigeration is stored in the school office fridge.

Emergency medications such as Epipens and asthma inhalers should be readily available in a clearly labelled container in the school office. Children should know where their medicines are stored.

Parents are ultimately responsible for checking expiry dates on their children's medicines and replacing as necessary. The School Administrator will also check medication expiry dates twice a year.

### **Disposal of Medicines**

Staff should not dispose of medicines. Parents are responsible for ensuring that date-expired medicines are returned to a pharmacy for safe disposal. They should also collect medicines held at the end of each year. Any medicines that have not been collected should be taken to a local pharmacy for safe disposal.

Sharps boxes should always be used for the safe disposal of needles. Parents should obtain these from their child's GP and return to a pharmacy for safe disposal.

### **Emergency Procedures**

All staff are aware of procedures when dealing with a medical emergency. These should be supervised by a trained First Aider.

All staff are aware of pupils on a health care plan and understand the need to follow agreed emergency support.

All staff know how to call the emergency services; guidance is displayed on the school office notice board.

In the event of an emergency, every effort will be made to contact a parent so that they may accompany their child to hospital. If this is not possible, a member of staff will accompany the child to hospital by ambulance and stay until the parent arrives. Health care professionals are responsible for any decisions on medical treatment when parents are not available. Children will never be taken to hospital in a member of staff's car.

### **Educational Visits**

This school actively encourages children with medical needs to participate in trips and visits. Staff will aim to facilitate reasonable adjustments to enable pupils with medical needs to participate fully and safely on visits. Risk assessments will be used to highlight any potential difficulties and ensure procedures are in place to support pupils. Additional staff/adults will be considered for this purpose.

Prior to an overnight school trip, parents must complete an up-to-date medical questionnaire about pupil's current general health and medication. Prescribed medication will be administered, providing parents have completed Template B. Parents are invited to provide written consent to enable staff to act 'in loco parentis' and administer 'Calpol' analgesia if required. Where this is refused, parents are requested to discuss alternative support measures with staff.

Accompanying staff will be aware of any medical needs and relevant emergency procedures. A copy of health care plans will be taken on all visits as well as emergency medication that may be required.

### **Staff Training**

St Anthony's Primary School holds training on common medical conditions once a year; this is delivered by the school nurse or relevant health care professionals. A log of staff training is kept and reviewed every 12 months to ensure new staff receive training.

Staff training is provided to support the administration of emergency medications such as Epipens or insulin. The school keeps a register of staff who have undertaken the relevant training. Only staff who have received this training should administer such medications.

St Anthony's Primary School has several appointed First Aiders and Paediatric First Aiders. Staff who have this training are listed on the staff room notice board and in the school office. Training is reviewed regularly and updated every three years.

## **Medical Conditions**

### **Asthma**

This school recognises that asthma is a widespread, potentially serious, but controllable condition and encourages pupils with asthma to achieve their potential in all aspects of school life.

Parents have a duty to inform staff if their child is asthmatic. Preventative inhalers should be provided and labelled with the pupil and class name. These should be kept in an assigned container within the school office and accompany the child if they are educated outside the school premises.

Children with asthma must have immediate access to inhalers when they need them and know where they are kept. A spacer device may be required and the pupil may need support to use this.

A record sheet to record the frequency of an inhaler use can be found in each child's medical record (held in the school office). This should be completed for all pupils where usage exceeds normal daily administration.

Parents should be notified when a child has used an inhaler excessively or more regularly than usual.

Pupils with asthma are listed in the school Asthma Register, found in the school office.

### **Head Injuries**

Pupils who sustain a head injury **MUST** be reviewed by a First Aider in school. If a pupil has a visible wound, swelling or adverse reaction, parents will be informed and are welcome to assess their child personally. Where there are no residual effects, the pupil can remain in school whilst being observed. A head injury advice sheet must be completed for all head injuries and sent home with the routine accident letter, which gives advice on the more serious signs of a head injury.

### **Epilepsy, Anaphylaxis and Diabetes**

Parents have a duty and responsibility to notify the school if their child has any of these conditions and should provide details of any treatment and support they may require in school. Relevant health care professionals will liaise between parents/guardians and school personnel to ensure staff are aware of, and trained to provide, any relevant or emergency

support or treatment. An individual health care plan will usually be compiled, detailing the course of action to be taken.