

## **Granta policy for supporting pupils with medical needs.**

Granta is a special school for pupils with complex learning difficulties. Many students also have associated sensory impairments and complex health needs. This policy sets out the guiding principles of how the school supports the needs of pupils with both long and short term medical needs. The specific kinds of support which we offer changes according to the particular needs of the pupils who seek placement or whose needs change whilst they are on role. Parents, carers and staff should make additional contact with the school if their particular concern is not addressed within this policy.

### **Policy aims**

- To support individual children with medical needs achieve the best attendance possible
- To reduce cross-infection risk between children, to increase whole-school attendance
- To ensure staff receive proper support, guidance and training to effectively and safely carry out necessary procedures
- To ensure that medicines given at school are stored and administered safely.

Parents and carers are asked not to send children to school who are unwell with common childhood illnesses that are easily spread. This helps to minimise the risk to other pupils with chronic health conditions.

### **Non-prescribed medicines.**

In line with latest decision by the CCG (health commissioning group) not to allow local GPs to prescribe medicines which are available over the counter such as paracetamol we have amended our approach to non-prescribed medicines. School will agree to store and administer common medications which are provided in original packaging, widely available and UK recognised such as paracetamol and antihistamines. Our procedures for the safe and strict handling of these medications remains the same:

We will only administer such medications if :

- We have clear direction on the day that the child has not already received similar medication at home and is outside the time period for accidental overdose. If in doubt, we will not give the medication.
- Medications are in date
- We have the required signed permission and dose slips. On day 1 only we can accept written instructions in the child's diary.
- They are clearly marked for usage e.g. eye drops are occasionally advised for use on gastro sites and the packaging and permission slips must make that explicit
- They are provided in original packaging with child's name clearly marked on the external box and internal label

We will not give:

- “alternative” remedies
- Medications sourced outside the UK or over the internet
- Medications that are contrary to the best medical advice that we have received as a school and/ or in respect to an individual child. Currently that includes cannabis oils.

### **Prescribed medicines**

In line with other schools, if medicines are prescribed up to 3 times a day (for example antibiotics) parents and carers should usually give these medicines outside of school hours.

If prescribed medicine is needed during the school day then it must be

- Safely transported to school and notified to adults so that it can be removed from bags immediately on arrival to a place of safety
- Provided in its original container
- Prescribed by a doctor and have a label showing Name of child, Name of medicine, Dose, method of administration (e.g. by mouth, by gastro tube) and time/frequency
- Have the instruction leaflet with it which shows any side effects and the expiry date

School will provide blank medicine request forms and parents/carers must complete and sign one of these forms for each medicine taken at school. On rare occasions a child may be prescribed medicines and arrive in school with them before parents have been able to request a form. On those days we will give medications so long as they are prescribed and labelled as above and there is clear written instruction in the child's home/school diary on that day only. A form will then be sent home so that it can be completed and returned by parent on day 2 of medication.

### **Longer term needs – medicines and gastro feeds**

Where a child has a long term medical need it will be included on the child's internal school health care plan. Parents and carers are the source of information and parents should not assume that another agency/ doctor or nurse will update the school.

Regular interventions including asthma inhalers and gastro feeds have a specific protocol plan drawn up between parents/carers and health professionals and that must be agreed and counter signed by the head teacher. School staff will assist with medicines including rescue medicine for epilepsy and gastro feed protocols so long as an agreed health care plan (protocol) is in place. It should be noted that agreement to be trained to carry out these procedures on a routine basis is voluntary and members of staff who volunteer to take part in these procedures must be trained to do so and must wear the necessary protective clothing.

### **Signing procedure**

All medicines given at school will be signed for on administration, with date and time clearly recorded, and witnessed by a second adult. This procedure is part of the regular yearly medical training day provided to staff.

### **Controlled medications**

Occasionally children may be prescribed controlled medications, for example for ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder). School has additional control measures in place to store and administer those medications.

### **Self- management**

Pupils are encouraged to take responsibility for their medicines as far as is safe and practicable within our environment and on off site activities. This is assessed according to the ability of the individual student and the peer group around them. As a general rule pupils do not carry any medications within school but have them kept in a locked secured area which can only be accessed with the assistance of an adult. Exceptions may be children and older students with inhalers and epi pens where speed of response is crucial. In those cases the medications may either be accessible to the young person concerned, if they are able to exercise responsibility, or in unlocked areas of classrooms where a number of adults can access it on their behalf with speed. These conditions are risk assessed on an individual basis.

### **Refusing medicine or 'loosing' medicine through secretions**

Staff will not give an extra dose to 'compensate' for any medication that may be perceived as 'lost' during its administration. Parents and carers will be informed of any medication lost in this way or refused on the same day.

### **Storage and disposal of medicine**

The school stores medicine in a locked cabinet or locked fridge as necessary with the vast majority stored in the medical/first aid room. Medicines and empty containers will be returned to parents at the end of each term and all medications and equipment will be sent home at the end of the summer term..

### **Emergency treatment and medicine administration**

Yearly training is provided to staff on resuscitation and rescue (Basic life support and evacuation from the pool area). For a small number of pupils more regular life support training for key staff is provided. The school will call 999 for medical emergencies including those outlined in care plans and parents and carers will be notified.

In some instances we may call 111 and share your child's details so that we can obtain the best health advice for them. The school nurse team only attends school once per week and that is subject to availability. That means that the service will only provide helpline advice on the majority of school days and then only for children with specific protocols and conditions that are known to them. The service does not provide emergency or first aid support and is not always able to update us on protocol reviews. Please share this information directly with school.

### **First aid**

The school has a dedicated group of staff who volunteer to take on additional first aid duties and appropriate training is provided. Whenever first aid is given a record is made and parents/carers are notified, usually via the home/school diary.

### **Physio therapy and Occupational therapy**

For some of the pupils, one of the ways the school will support their health and medical needs is through daily postural management achieved through good seating, use of standing frames/walkers, good positioning in lying/on the floor, use of splints/lycra, etc. The Physiotherapy Team will support pupils and school staff by offering training and advice in good postural management including advice on equipment.

For some pupils, physiotherapists may suggest a more specific exercise/physiotherapy programme to be delivered as part of their daily activities by the class team for which the physiotherapy team will offer support and guidance. Where a physiotherapist recommends the use of hydrotherapy to achieve a specific physiotherapeutic aim, they will provide direct advice and training to school staff in how to support this aim.

At other times the pool may be used with pupils in school for recreational 'swimming' which will be managed and led by school staff. More information is available from health professionals or school.

Occupational therapy support to pupils may include advice on equipment, activities of daily living and sensory processing. More information is available from health professionals or school. Sensory processing and integration is available on a parent workshop basis: occupational therapists to do carry out individual assessments or provide individual programmes to school.

School conducts risk assessments for the use of equipment such as hoists , wheelchairs, standing frames, changing beds and appropriate training to staff. Risk assessments are based on the advice and guidance given from physiotherapist and occupational therapists.

### **Therapeutic and medical support for emotional and mental health needs**

School provides music therapy for pupils who have emotional, therapeutic or communication needs which may be addressed through it. School can also support by referring to CamH medical teams or continuing care to support pupils and families where challenging behaviours or mental health issues may be affecting home life. For a small number of pupils in receipt of pupil premium or looked after child funding we can provide Blue Smile individual counselling services on site. To assist us with early help and identification, we have whole school training in understanding and responding to emotions and have developed a specific curriculum approach for some of our most emotionally challenged young adults. Our wellbeing champion is Ms Sharon Collins.

### **Support to pupils who miss schooling for medical reasons**

Our first priority is to return pupils to school as soon as is possible following, for example, operations or periods of illness. Multi-agency support is requested to achieve this swiftly.

School is mindful of its duty to provide work and support for pupils with extended periods of absence through ill health and makes an appropriate offer based on the

particular circumstances of each pupil. This is likely to be in the form of provided materials and activities, occasional home visits, on line learning platforms and a commitment to mark and return work for our more subject based pupils. We do not provide a home tuition service.

### **Speech and language therapy**

Speech and language therapy is also available on site from the service for those children requiring additional support. Where there are concerns about a child's progress, their speech, language and communication and/or eating and drinking needs are assessed and recommendations made to the class team. Most strategies and interventions will be delivered by the class team in the classroom environment with support from the SLT team. More information is available from health professionals or the school.