



## **Children with Medical Conditions Policy, including the Administering of Medicines and First Aid Policy**

### **Policy Statement**

**Beechcroft Infants' School is an inclusive community that welcomes and supports pupils with medical conditions.**

**Beechcroft Infants' School understands that pupils can suffer from long term, short term, chronic and acute illnesses and will provide for all pupils without exception or discrimination. This includes both physical and mental health conditions.**

**Beechcroft Infants' School provides all pupils with any medical condition the same opportunities as others at school, enabling them to play a full and active role in school life, remain healthy and achieve their academic potential.**

We will help to ensure they can:

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution

Beechcroft Infants' School (from here on known as 'this school') makes sure all staff understand their duty of care to children and young people in the event of an emergency.

Staff feel confident in knowing what to do in an emergency.

This school understands that certain medical conditions are serious and potentially life threatening, particularly if poorly managed or misunderstood.

This school understands the importance of medication and care being taken as directed by healthcare professionals and parents/carers. All pupils with medical conditions will be known to all necessary staff and some will have an Individual Health Care Plan (IHCP) – refer to 'when an IHCP is required sheet' written as soon as possible after diagnosis and reviewed at least annually or more often if necessary. These will be completed by the School Nursing Team but only for severe allergy and epilepsy from September 2024. If a child is required to have long term medicine then the school will complete an Individual Plan when parents/carers provide evidence as to why the medication is required from a medical professional.

All staff understand the medical conditions that affect pupils at this school. Staff receive training on the impact medical conditions can have on pupils.

This school ensures that staff receive appropriate first aid training and have easy access to first aid equipment. First aid boxes are located in the medical room and in the admin building. All classrooms have a basic first aid kit (gloves and tissues) and full, portable first aid kits are taken on any off site visits.

This school ensures this policy is applied across the curriculum, including PE and Educational Visits.

The named member of school staff responsible for this medical conditions policy, including the administering of medicines and first aid and its implementation is **Mrs Jo-Anne Rutt**.

### **Policy Framework**

The policy framework describes the essential criteria for how the school can meet the needs of children and young people with long term and short term medical conditions and those suffering from unexpected illness or injury at school.

#### **1. This school is an inclusive community that supports and welcomes pupils with medical conditions.**

- This school is welcoming and supportive of pupils with medical conditions. It provides children with medical conditions with the same opportunities and access to activities (both school based and out of school) as other pupils. No child will be denied admission or prevented from taking up a place in this school because arrangements for their medical condition have not been made.
- This school will listen to the views of pupils and parents/carers.
- Pupils and parents/carers feel confident in the care they receive from this school and the level of care that meets their needs.
- This school will ensure all pupils joining at normal transition times will have arrangements in place to manage their medical condition by the beginning of that term. Any pupil joining the school mid-term will aim to have arrangements in place within four weeks.
- Staff understand the medical conditions of pupils at this school and that they may be serious, adversely affect a child's quality of life and impact on their ability to learn.
- All staff understand their duty of care to children and young people and know what to do in the event of an emergency.
- The whole school and local health community understand and support the medical conditions policy.
- This school understands that all children with the same medical condition will not have the same needs.
- The school recognises that duties in the Children and Families Act 2014 (England only) and the Equality Act (England, Wales and Scotland) relate to children with disability or medical conditions is anticipatory. This school understands that some children who have medical conditions may also have disabilities and / or special educational needs and this policy may be read in conjunction with the school's SEN policy and the SEN code of practice.

#### **2. This school's medical conditions policy is drawn up in consultation with key stakeholders within both the school and health settings.**

- Stakeholders should include parents/carers, pupils, the nursing team for schools, school staff, governors and relevant local health services.

**3. The medical conditions policy is supported by a clear communication plan for staff, parents/carers and other key stakeholders to ensure its full implementation.**

- Pupils, parents/carers, relevant local healthcare staff, and other external stakeholders are informed of and reminded about the medical conditions policy through clear communication channels. The policy will be available on the school's website for public view and all staff will be reminded of the policy and how it is implemented at induction and on an annual basis.

**4. Staff understand and are trained in what to do in an emergency at school.**

- All school staff, including temporary or supply staff (and volunteers if and when appropriate), are aware of the medical conditions at this school and understand their duty of care to pupils in an emergency.
- Staff know what to do in an emergency and this is refreshed at least once a year.
- All staff should be familiar with normal procedures for avoiding infection and follow basic hygiene procedures. Staff have access to protective clothing and suitable disposal equipment to safely deal with spillages of blood or other bodily fluids, including the changing of dressings.
- The School Nurse will advise if an IHCP is needed and will explain what help a child might need in an emergency. The IHCP will accompany a pupil should they need to attend hospital. IHCPs should be developed in the context of assessing and managing risks to the pupil's education, health and social wellbeing and to minimise disruption. They should also consider; the medical condition, its trigger, signs, symptoms and treatment.

**5. Staff understand and are trained in the school's general emergency procedures.**

- Staff, including temporary, know what action to take in an emergency and receive updates at least yearly. Training is provided at the start of each academic year, and as required throughout the year, and policies and procedures are discussed with temporary and supply staff. Training needs will be identified and discussed at least annually as part of the school's appraisal process.
- The induction of new staff will include training for supporting pupils with medical needs.
- Any member of staff providing support to a pupil with medical needs will have received suitable training.
- If a pupil needs to attend hospital, a member of staff (preferably known to the pupil) will stay with them until a parent/carer or legal guardian arrives, or accompany a child taken to hospital by ambulance. A member of staff must not take a pupil to hospital in their own car unless a chaperone accompanies them and it is the only option available.

**6. This school has clear guidance on providing care and support and administering medication and first aid at school.**

- This school understands the importance of medication being taken and care received as detailed in the pupil's IHCP.

- This school will make sure that there are several members of staff who have been trained to administer the medication and meet the care needs of an individual child. This school will ensure there are sufficient members of staff trained to cover any absences, staff turnover and other contingencies.
- This school will not give medication to a child under 16 without a parent/carer's written consent except in exceptional circumstances. Medication may only be administered if prescribed by a healthcare professional. Medicines bought 'over the counter' may not be administered, except in exceptional circumstances, please speak to the office for further advice. Parents/carers are welcome to come into school during school hours to administer a single dose of analgesic and/or antipyretic medicine such as Paracetamol or ibuprofen if they feel it is necessary.
- Medicines will only be administered at school when it would be detrimental to the pupil's health not to do so and where it is not clinically possible to arrange doses to be taken solely outside of school hours.
- The school will only administer antibiotics if they are prescribed and required four times daily.
- Children at this school may administer their own medication, if they have received appropriate training and it is the wish of the pupil and their parent/carer. This will be recorded on their IHCP. A member of staff must be present to supervise and be prepared to intervene if necessary to ensure the child's health and safety are not compromised. Whilst pupils will be encouraged to keep themselves healthy, and self-care is to be promoted, this school recognises that some pupil's needs may be complex and some medical conditions can be fatal if not managed well.
- If a pupil refuses to take their medication or carry out a necessary procedure, staff should not force them to do so, but follow the procedure agreed in the IHCP. Parents/carers will be informed.
- This school will make sure that a trained member of staff is available to accompany a pupil with a medical condition on an off-site educational visit and the needs of the pupil, associated risks and how these are to be managed will be included in the risk assessment for the visit.
- Parents/carers at this school understand that they should let the school know immediately if their child's needs change and provide enough information to ensure their needs are met.

## **7. This school has clear guidance on the storage of medication and equipment at school.**

- This school makes sure that staff understand what constitutes an emergency for an individual child and makes sure that emergency medication / equipment is readily available wherever the child is in the school and on off-site activities, and is not locked away. Pupils may carry their emergency medication / equipment with them if this is appropriate or know where and how to access it. Children at this school know to ask any member of staff and that they may have immediate access to their medication when required. In this school medications are stored safely in the medicine cabinet in the office or the medicine fridge in the staffroom if required to be stored at a controlled temperature. Certain medication will be stored securely in the classroom if this is required.
- Staff at this school can administer a controlled drug to a pupil once they have had specialist training.

- This school will store medication that is in date and labelled in its original container. The exceptions to this are medications like insulin which although must still be in date, will generally be supplied in an injector pen or pump. Other medication will only be accepted where it is in its original container, complete with dispensing label including the child's name and instructions for administering from a qualified healthcare professional.
- This school will check all medication held in school on at least a termly basis and all medicines which will expire before the end of the following term will be returned to parents/carers and replacements requested.

## **8. This school has clear guidance about record keeping**

- Parents/carers at this school are asked if their child has any medical conditions on the admissions form and given time to talk through these with the class teacher.
- This school uses an IHCP to record the support an individual pupil needs around their medical condition. The IHCP is developed with the pupil (where appropriate), parents/carers, School Nurse, school staff, specialist nurse (where appropriate) and relevant healthcare services.
- This school has a centralised storage of IHCPs, and an identified member of staff who has responsibility for this register – Mrs Jo-Anne Rutt.
- IHCPs are reviewed regularly, at least every year or whenever the pupil's needs change.
- Parents/carers, School, the nursing team for schools, specialist nurse (where appropriate), and relevant healthcare services hold a copy of the IHCP. Other school staff, including Midday Supervisor Assistants, are aware and have access to the IHCPs for pupils in their care.
- This school makes sure that the pupil's confidentiality is protected.
- This school seeks permission from parents/carers before sharing medical information with any other party.
- This school meets with the pupil (where appropriate), parents/carers, specialist nurse (where appropriate), and relevant healthcare services prior to any extended day visit to discuss and make a plan for any extra care requirements that may be needed. This is recorded on the pupil's IHCP which will accompany them on the visit.
- This school keeps an accurate record of all medication administered, including the dose, time, date, staff administering and supervising staff.
- This school makes sure that all staff providing support to a pupil have received suitable training and ongoing support, to make sure they have the confidence to provide the necessary support and that they fulfil the requirements set out in the pupil's IHCP. This should be provided by the specialist nurse, the nursing team for schools, other suitably qualified healthcare professional and/or the parents/carers, and this school keeps an up to date record of all training undertaken and by whom.

## **9. This school ensures that the whole school environment is inclusive and favourable to pupils with medical conditions. This includes the physical environment, as well as social, sporting and educational activities.**

- This school is committed to providing a physical environment accessible to pupils with medical conditions and pupils are consulted to ensure this accessibility. This school is also committed to an accessible environment for out of school activities.

- This school makes sure the needs of pupils with medical conditions are adequately considered to ensure their involvement in structured and unstructured activities.
- All staff are aware of the potential social problems that pupils with medical conditions may experience and use this knowledge, alongside the school's anti-bullying policy, to help prevent and deal with any problems. They use opportunities such as PSHE (personal, social and health education) and science lessons to raise awareness of medical conditions to help promote a positive environment.
- This school understands the importance of all pupils taking part in physical activity and that all relevant staff make appropriate adjustments to physical activity sessions to make sure they are accessible to all pupils. This includes out of school clubs and team sports.
- This school understands that all relevant staff are aware that pupils should not be forced to take part in activities if they are unwell. They should also be aware of pupils who have been advised to avoid / take special precautions during activity, and the potential triggers for a pupil's condition when exercising and how to minimise these.
- This school makes sure that pupils have the appropriate medication / equipment / food available during physical activity.
- This school makes sure that pupils with medical conditions can participate fully in all aspects of the curriculum and enjoy the same opportunities at school as any other child, and that appropriate adjustments and extra support are provided.
- All school staff understand that frequent absences, or symptoms, such as limited concentration and frequent tiredness, may be due to a pupil's medical condition. This school will not penalise pupils for their attendance if their absence relates to their medical condition. Following absence, reintegration back into school will be properly supported so pupils with medical conditions fully engage with learning and do not fall behind when they are unable to attend. Short term absences, including those for medical appointments are effectively managed as per the school's attendance policy.
- This school will refer pupils with medical conditions who are finding it difficult to keep up educationally to the Special Educational Needs Coordinator who will liaise with the pupil (where appropriate), parents/carers and the pupil's healthcare professional.
- Pupils at this school learn what to do in an emergency.
- This school makes sure that a risk assessment is carried out before any out of school educational visit. The needs of pupils with medical conditions are considered during this process and plans are put in place for any additional medication, equipment or support that may be required.

**10. This school is aware of the common triggers that can make common medical conditions worse or can bring on an emergency. This school is actively working towards reducing or eliminating these health and safety risks.**

- This school is committed to identifying and reducing triggers both at school and on out of school visits.
- School staff have been given training and written information on medical conditions which includes avoiding / reducing exposure to common triggers. It has a list of the triggers for pupils with medical conditions at this school, has a trigger reduction schedule and is actively working towards reducing / eliminating these health and safety risks.
- The IHCP details an individual pupil's triggers and details how to make sure the pupil remains safe during the whole school day and on out of school activities. Risk

assessments are carried out on all out of school activities, taking into account the needs of pupils with medical conditions.

- This school reviews all medical emergencies and incidents to see how they could be avoided, and changes school policy according to these reviews.

**11. Each member of the school and health community knows their roles and responsibilities in maintaining and implementing an effective medical conditions policy.**

- This school works in partnership with all relevant parties including the pupil (where appropriate), parents/carers, governing body, staff, employers and healthcare professionals to ensure that the policy is planned, implemented and maintained successfully.
- The governing body should ensure parents/carers are aware of the school's complaints policy and procedures should they be dissatisfied with the support provided to their child.

**12. The medical conditions policy is regularly reviewed, evaluated and updated. Updates are produced every year.**

- In evaluating the policy, this school seeks feedback from stakeholders including parents/carers, relevant healthcare professionals, school staff, governors and the school employer.

Beechcroft Infants' School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and expects all staff to share this commitment. Please read the Safeguarding and Child protection Policy and Procedures for further information.

Approved by the Governing Body March 2015

Reviewed July 2024

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