



## **Stroud Valley Community Primary School**

### **Supporting Children At School with Medical Conditions**

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Stroud Valley Community Primary School is committed to ensuring that the best arrangements are in place for children with medical conditions to thrive both emotionally and academically. They will be fully supported so they have full access to all aspects of school life, including school trips; activities taking place off-site as part of normal educational activities and physical education.

We understand that children with long term and complex medical conditions may require on-going support, medicines or care while at school to help manage their condition and keep them well.

In order to make the best provision for the child we have good working relationships with outside agencies including health professionals who we contact for advice. The views and experience of the child's parents are essential to ensuring we get the provision right and we will consult with them throughout the time their child is in school. It is important to us that parents feel confident that we will provide effective support for children's medical conditions and that children feel safe here.

When a parent, or other professional, notifies the school of a medical condition we will meet with all stakeholders before admitting the child into school. If specific training needs to be completed this will be arranged as soon as possible and again before the child starts school. This will ensure we are able to care for the child and keep them safe. As a part of our SEND provision we regularly meet with parents and this will be the same for those with medical needs. If we are unsure of anything the class teacher, or linked learning support worker, will make contact with the parent for advice.

This policy needs to be read in conjunction with the schools policy on intimate care and drugs which includes information on medicines in schools. It has been written using the December 2015 Department of Education guidance and sets out our arrangements to support children at school with medical conditions. Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014 places a duty on governing bodies to make arrangements for supporting pupils at their school with medical conditions.

The Special Needs Coordinator (S.E.N.C.O) for the school has overall responsibility for children with medical conditions, ensuring these children are entitled to access and enjoy the same opportunities at school as all children. When working with these children she will:

- arrange suitable training for appropriate staff
- ensure a commitment that all relevant staff will be made aware of children's condition
- ensure cover arrangements in case of staff absence to ensure someone is always available
- brief supply teachers
- be involved in completing risk assessments as required, eg on school trips
- monitor individual healthcare plans alongside the class teacher, named learning support workers and parents.

### **Individual Health Care Plans**

The SENCO has responsibility for developing individual health care plans and working with relevant staff to ensure these work to support the child in school. These will be developed alongside healthcare professionals and parents. The child will be consulted and involved whenever appropriate. These plans will be reviewed at least annually or whenever professionals or parents feel the need; including if the condition changes.

These will be developed with the child's best interest in mind and ensure that the school assess and manages risks to the child's education, health and social wellbeing and minimises disruption.

An individual health care plan will include:

- the medical condition, it's triggers, signs, symptoms and treatments
- the child's resulting needs, including medication (dose, side effects and storage) and other treatments, time, facilities, equipment, testing, access to food and drink which is required to manage the condition, dietary requirements and environmental issues
- support for educational, social and emotional needs – eg how absence are managed, requirements for extra time to complete tests, rest periods or additional support required.
- if a child is self-managing medication this will be clearly stated with appropriate arrangements for monitoring
- who will provide the support, training needs, expectations of their role and cover arrangements should they be required
- who in the school needs to be aware of the child's condition and support required
- arrangements for written permission from parents for medication to be administered by a member of staff or self administration during school hours
- specific arrangements required for school trips or activities outside of the normal timetable so that the child can participate as fully as possible;
- what to do in an emergency, including who to contact and contingency arrangements.

Our ability to provide effective support relies on good working relationships and working co-operatively with other agencies and families.

Some children with a medical condition may have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). We will ensure that these needs are specifically recorded on the EHCP. This plan will provide clarity about what needs to be done and by whom.

### **Absence from school**

Regular absence from school may be inevitable for children with some medical conditions. Long term absence can affect educational attainment, impact on ability to integrate with peers / general wellbeing and emotional health. We will work with families to support the reintegration of children into school after an absence to help them fully engage with learning and their peers.

Short term / frequent absence, including appointments can be disruptive. We will do our best to effectively manage these and put support in place to limit educational attainment deficit and emotional and general well being

### **Managing Medicines in School**

Children with long term and complex medical conditions may require on-going support, medicines or care while at school to help manage their condition and keep them well.

Medicines will only be administered in schools when it would be detrimental to a child's health or attendance not to do so. Children will not be given any medicine without written consent from the parent. Medicines are stored in the school office and we only accept medicines that are in date, labelled and provided in the original container and have clear instructions for dosage.

Written records of any medicine administered to a child are kept. This offers protections to staff and children.

Asthma inhalers are kept in classrooms, for easy access, and kept out of reach of children.

## **Emergency Procedures**

If a child needs to be taken to hospital a member of staff will stay with the child until a parent arrives.

Within an individual healthcare plan the definition of an emergency will be made clear alongside an explanation of actions required.

## **Day Trips, Residential Visits and sporting Activities.**

Our practice and arrangements will actively support children with medical conditions so they can participate in school trips, visits, sporting activities etc and not prevent them from doing so.

Staff will be aware of the medical condition and plans made around the flexibility so all children can participate according to their own abilities with reasonable adjustments.

During the planning of visit children with medical needs and reasonable adjustments will be made. This will be completed in consultation with the child, parents and relevant healthcare professionals if required.

## **Unacceptable Practice**

Each case is individual and decisions will be taken in relation to the children concerned and a written healthcare plan.

However, it is generally not acceptable to:

- prevent children from easily accessing 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; ignore medical evidence or opinion;
- send children with medical conditions home frequently for reasons associated with their medical condition or prevent them from staying for normal school activities unless this is specified in their individual healthcare plan;
- if the child become ill send them to the school office unaccompanied or with some one unsuitable;
- penalise children for their attendance record if their absences are related to their medical conditions;
- prevent pupils from drinking, eating or taking toilet breaks whenever they need in order to manage their medical condition effectively;
- require parents, or otherwise make them feel obliged, to attend school to administer medicine or provide medical support to their child, including 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 trips

## **Complaints**

Should parents be dissatisfied with the support the initial step is to discuss concerns directly with the school.

Our complaints policy is availed on the school website.

## **Policy Review**

Policy Title	Supporting Children At School with Medical Conditions
Date Policy Ratified by Governors	12/07/21
Date for next review	July 23