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RAF BENSON COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL
POLICY DOCUMENT

Supporting Children with Medical Needs

Policy has been adopted/reviewed by Governing Body:	
Signed: N Gasan	Date: 13 March 2023

Introduction

Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014 places a duty on the Governing Body and Senior Leadership Team to make arrangements for supporting pupils at school with medical conditions and needs. Pupils with special medical needs have the same right of admission to school as other children and cannot be refused admission or excluded from school on medical grounds alone. However, teachers and other school staff in charge of pupils have a common law duty to act in the place of the parent and may need to take swift action in an emergency. This duty also extends to teachers leading activities taking place off the school site.

This could extend to a need to administer medicine. The prime responsibility for a child's health lies with the parent who is responsible for the child's medication and should supply the school with information.

This policy will be reviewed as part of the two year cycle and will be readily accessible to Parents/Carers and staff through our School website.

Policy Implementation

All schools and academies are expected by Ofsted to have a policy dealing with medical needs and to be able to demonstrate that this is implemented effectively.

The overall responsibility for the successful administering and implementation of this Policy is given to the Headteacher who will also be responsible for ensuring that sufficient staff are suitably trained and will ensure cover arrangements in case of staff absences or staff turnover to ensure that someone is always available and on site.

The Assistant Headteacher/Phase Leader or SENCo, will be responsible for briefing supply teachers, supporting teachers with risk assessments for school visits and other school activities outside of the normal timetable.

The SEN team will be responsible for monitoring individual healthcare plans and for liaising with the school office.

All staff will be expected to show a commitment and awareness of children's medical conditions. All new members of staff will be inducted into the arrangements and guidelines set out in this policy.

Definitions of Medical Conditions:

Pupils' medical needs may be broadly summarised as being of two types:

- Short-term affecting their participation in school activities because they are on a course of medication
- Long-term potentially limiting their access to education and requiring extra care and support (deemed special medical needs)

The Role of Staff

Some children with medical conditions may be disabled. Where this is the case Governing Bodies must comply with their duties under the Equality Act 2010. Some may also have Special Educational Needs and may have a statement, or Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan which brings together health and social care needs, as well as their special educational provision.

For children with SEN, this guidance should be read in conjunction with the SEN Code of Practice 2014.

If a child is deemed to have a long-term medical condition, the school will ensure that arrangements are in place to support them. In doing so, we will ensure that such children can access and enjoy the same opportunities at school as any other child. The school health professionals, Parents/Carers and other support services will work together to ensure that children with medical conditions receive a full education, unless this would not be in their best interests because of their health needs. In some cases this will require flexibility and involve, for example, programmes of study that rely on part time attendance at school in combination with alternative provision arranged by the Local Authority and health professionals.

Consideration will also be given to how children will be reintegrated back into school after long periods of absence due to medical needs.

Staff must not give prescription medicines or undertake health care procedures without appropriate training (updated to reflect any Individual Health Care Plans). At the school, we recognise that a first-aid certificate does not constitute appropriate training in supporting children with medical conditions. Healthcare professionals, including the school nurse, who we have access to, will provide training and subsequent confirmation of the proficiency of staff in a medical procedure, or in providing medication.

Procedures to be followed when notification is received

We will ensure that the correct procedures will be followed whenever we are notified that a pupil has a medical condition. The procedures will also be in place to cover any transitional arrangements between schools, the process to be followed upon reintegration or when pupil's needs change and arrangements for any staff training or support.

For children starting at RAF Benson Primary School, arrangements will be in place in time for the start of the relevant school term. In other cases, such as a new diagnosis or children moving to RAF Benson Primary School mid-term, we will make every effort to ensure that arrangements are put in place within two weeks.

In making the arrangements, the School will take into account that many of the medical conditions that require support at school will affect quality of life and may be life-threatening.

We will also acknowledge that some will be more obvious than others. We will therefore ensure that the focus is on the needs of each individual child and how their medical condition impacts on their school life. We will ensure that arrangements give Parents/Carers and pupils

confidence in the school's ability to provide effective support for medical conditions in school. The arrangements will show an understanding of how medical conditions impact on a child's ability to learn, as well as increase their confidence and promote self-care.

We will ensure that staff are properly trained to provide the support that pupils need.

We will ensure that arrangements are clear and unambiguous about the need to actively support pupils with medical conditions to participate in school trips and visits, or in sporting activities, and not prevent them from doing so. We will make arrangements for the inclusion of pupils in such activities with any adjustments as required unless evidence from a clinician such as a GP states that this is not possible.

We will make sure that no child with a medical condition is denied admission or prevented from attending the school because arrangements for their medical condition have not been made.

However, in line with our Safeguarding duties, we will ensure that pupils' health is not put at unnecessary risk from, for example infectious diseases. We will therefore not accept a child in school at times where it would be detrimental to the health of that child or others.

The School does not have to wait for a formal diagnosis before providing support to pupils. In cases where a pupil's medical condition is unclear, or where there is a difference of opinion, judgements will be needed about what support to provide based on the available evidence. This would normally involve some form of medical evidence and consultation with Parents/Carers. Where evidence conflicts, some degree of challenge may be necessary to ensure that the right support can be put in place. This will usually be led the Inclusion Team.

Following the discussions an Individual Health Care Plan will be put in place.

Where a child has an Individual Health Care Plan, this should clearly define what constitutes an emergency and explain what to do, including ensuring that all relevant staff are aware of emergency symptoms and procedures. Other pupils in the School should know what to do in general terms, such as informing a teacher immediately if they think help is needed. If a child (regardless of whether they have an Individual Health Care Plan) needs to be taken to hospital, staff should stay with the child until the Parent/Carer arrives, or accompany a child taken to hospital by ambulance.

Individual Health Care Plans

Individual Health Care Plans will be written and reviewed by our Inclusion and Pastoral Team but it will be the responsibility of all members of staff supporting the individual children to ensure that the Plan is followed. The class teacher will be responsible for the child's development and ensuring that they and their medical conditions are supported at school.

Individual Healthcare Plans will help to ensure that the School effectively supports pupils with medical conditions. They will provide clarity about what needs to be done, when and by whom. They will often be essential, such as in cases where conditions fluctuate or where there is a high risk that emergency intervention will be needed. They are likely to be helpful in the majority of other cases too, especially where medical conditions are long-term and complex.

However, not all children will require an IHCP. The School, health care professional and Parents/Carers should agree, based on evidence, when a Health Care Plan would be inappropriate or disproportionate e.g. if an EHP is already in place or other plan relating to medical need. If consensus cannot be reached, the Headteacher is best placed to take a final view. A flow chart for identifying and agreeing the support a child needs and developing an individual healthcare plan is provided in **Annex A**.

Individual Health Care Plans will be easily accessible to all who need to refer to them, while preserving confidentiality. Plans will capture the key information and actions that are required to support the child effectively. The level of detail within plans will depend on the complexity of the child's condition and the degree of support needed. This is important because different children with the same health condition may require very different support. Where a child has SEN but does not have a statement or EHC plan, their SEN should be mentioned in their Individual Health Care Plan.

Annex B shows a template for the Individual Health Care Plan and the information needed to be included. Individual Health Care Plans, (and their review), may be initiated, in consultation with the Parent/Carer, by a member of school staff or a healthcare professional involved in providing care to the child. The Individual Health Care Plan must be completed by the Lead Professional (usually the SENCO) with support from Parents/Carers, and a relevant healthcare professional, e.g. school, specialist or children's community nurse, who can best advise on the particular needs of the child. Pupils should also be involved whenever appropriate. The responsibility for ensuring it is finalised and implemented rests with the School.

The School will ensure that Individual Health Care Plans are reviewed at least annually or earlier if evidence is presented that the child's needs have changed. They will be developed and reviewed with the child's best interests in mind and ensure that the School assesses and manages risks to the child's education, health and social wellbeing and minimises disruption. Where the child has a SEN identified in a statement or EHC plan, the Individual Health Care Plan should be linked to or become part of that statement or EHC plan.

Some children may have an Emergency Health Care Plan prepared by their lead clinician that could be used to inform development of their Individual Health Care Plan. The Emergency Health Care Plan will not be the School's responsibility to write or review.

The Child's Role in managing their own Medical Needs

If it is deemed, after discussion with the Parents/Carers, that a child is competent to manage their own health needs and medicines, the School will encourage them to take responsibility for managing their own medicines and procedures. This will be reflected within Individual Health Care Plans.

Wherever possible, children should be allowed to carry their own medicines and relevant devices or should be able to access their medicines for self-medication quickly and easily; these will be stored in the cupboard in the School Office to ensure that the safeguarding of other children is not compromised.

We do also recognise that children who can take their medicines themselves or manage procedures may require an appropriate level of supervision. If a child is not able to self-medicate then relevant staff should help to administer medicines and manage procedures for them.

If a child refuses to take medicine or carry out a necessary procedure, staff should not force them to do so but instead follow the procedure agreed in the Individual Health Care Plan. Parents/Carers should be informed, outside of the review, so that alternative options can be considered.

The following are the procedures to be followed for managing medicines:

- Medicines should only be administered at the School when it would be detrimental to a child's health or school attendance not to do so.
- We will not administer non-prescription medicines to a child, if a Parent/Carer wishes a child to have the non-prescription medicine administered during the School day, they will need to come to the School to administer it to their child.
- The School will only accept prescribed medicines that are in-date, labelled, provided in the original container as dispensed by a pharmacist and include instructions for administration, dosage and storage. The exception to this is insulin which must still be in date, but will generally be available inside an insulin pen or a pump, rather than in its original container.
- All medicines will be stored safely in the school office. Children should know where their medicines are at all times and be able to access them immediately.
- Where relevant, they should know who holds the key to the storage facility, which will be any member of staff.
- Medicines and devices such as asthma inhalers, blood glucose testing meters and adrenaline pens should be always readily available to children however stored safely away from other children; these will be stored in the office First Aid Cupboard where both class teacher and child know how to access them. If a child requires an asthma inhaler it is crucial that there is an inhaler, which is still in date, in the school at all times.
- During school trips, the first aid trained member of staff/member of staff in charge of first aid will carry all medical devices and medicines required.
- Staff administering medicines should do so in accordance with the prescriber's instructions. We keep a record of all medicines administered to individual children, stating what, how and how much was administered, when and by whom. Any side effects of the medication to be administered at school should be noted. Written records are kept of all medicines administered to children. These records offer protection to staff and children and provide evidence that agreed procedures have been followed.

- When no longer required, medicines should be returned to the Parent/Carer to arrange for safe disposal. Sharps boxes should always be used for the disposal of needles and other sharps.

Unacceptable Practice

Although School staff should use their discretion and judge each case on its merits with reference to the child's Individual Health Care Plan, it is not generally acceptable practice to:

- prevent children from easily accessing their 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/Carers; or ignore medical evidence or opinion, (although this may be challenged)
- send children with medical conditions home frequently or prevent them from staying for normal school activities, including lunch, unless this is specified in their individual healthcare plans
- if the child becomes ill, send them to the school office or medical room unaccompanied or with someone unsuitable
- penalise children for their attendance record if their absences are related to their medical condition e.g. hospital appointments. This includes termly attendance certificates where children are known to the school to have a medical condition where it is essential for them to attend medical and consultant appointments during school time.
- prevent pupils from drinking, eating or taking toilet or other breaks whenever they need to in order to manage their medical condition effectively
- require Parents/Carers, or otherwise make them feel obliged, to attend the school to administer medication or provide medical support to their child, including with toileting issues. No Parent/Carer 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 school trips, e.g. by requiring Parents/Carers to accompany the child – unless in extreme circumstances and the parent is willing to support the child

Complaints

Should Parents/Carers or pupils be dissatisfied with the support provided they should discuss their concerns directly with the School. If for whatever reason this does not resolve the issue, they may make a formal complaint via the complaints procedure outlined in the School's Complaints Policy.

Staff insurance cover

If these guidelines are followed, including the requisite to obtain parental consent, staff will be protected by the County Council's insurance policy against claims of negligence should a child suffer injury as a result of the giving of medicine.

Evaluating the Policy

This policy statement and the school's performance in supporting pupils requiring medication at school will be monitored and evaluated regularly by the Governing Body.

Annex A

Process for developing Individual Health Care Plans

Parent or healthcare professional informs the school that the child has been newly diagnosed, or will be attending our school, or is due to return to school after a long-term absence, or that has needs that have changed

Headteacher or senior member of school staff to whom this has been delegated, coordinates meeting to discuss child's medical support needs; and identifies member of school staff who will provide support to the child

Develop IHCP in partnership – agree who leads on writing it. Input from healthcare professional must be provided

Meeting to discuss and agree on need for IHCP to include key school staff, child, parent, relevant healthcare professional and other medical/health clinician as appropriate (or to consider written evidence provided by them)

IHCP reviewed annually or when condition changes. Parent or healthcare professional to initiate

Healthcare professional commissions/delivers training and staff signed-off as being competent – review date agreed

IHCP implemented and circulated to all relevant staff

School Staff training needs identified

Annex B

RAF Benson Community Primary School

Individual Health Care Plan

Child's Name		Date of Birth	
Class			
Address			
Medical Diagnosis or Condition			
Date		Review Date	

Name of Parent/ Carer 1			
Contact Numbers	Work: Home: Mobile:		
Relationship to Child			
Name of Parent/ Carer 2			
Contact Numbers	Work: Home: Mobile:		
Relationship to Child			

Clinic/ Hospital Name			
Contact Number			
GP Name			
Contact Number			

Describe medical needs and give details of child's symptoms, triggers, signs, treatments, facilities, equipment or devices, environmental issues etc

Name of medication, dose, method of administration, when to be taken, side effects, contra-indications, administered by/ self-administered with/without supervision	
Daily care requirements	
Specific support for the child's educational, social and emotional needs,	
Arrangements for school visits/trips	
Other information	
Describe what constitutes an emergency and the action to take if this occurs	
Who is responsible in an emergency, state if different for off-site activities	
Staff training needed/undertaken – who, what, where and when	
Plan developed with	Signed