

Bleakhouse Primary School Medical Conditions Policy

Definition

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

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

Rationale

LAs and schools have a responsibility for the health and safety of pupils in their care. The Health and Safety at Work Act (1974) makes employers responsible for the health and safety of employees and anyone else on the premises. In the case of pupils with special medical needs, the responsibility of the employer is to make sure that safety measures cover the needs of all pupils at the school. This may mean making special arrangements for particular pupils who may be more at risk than their classmates. Individual procedures may be required. The employer is responsible for making sure that relevant staff know about and are, if necessary, trained to provide any additional support these pupils may need.

The Children and Families Act (2014), from September 2014, places a duty on schools to make arrangements for children with medical conditions. **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 loco parentis 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. The school takes advice and guidance from the LA Management of Children with Medical Needs in Schools, the LA SEN Handbook and the School Health Nurse Service. It also supports the LA to deliver its Local Offer. Self-administration of medication when possible is encouraged. Contact details for the School Health Nurse can be found in the school office and are made available to parents on request.

Aims

The school aims to:

- Assist parents in providing medical care for their children
- Educate staff and children in respect of their special medical needs
- Arrange training for volunteer staff to support individual pupils
- Adopt and implement LA policy and guidelines
- Liaise as necessary with medical services (including the School Health Nurse to write Individual Care Plans) in support of the individual pupil
- Ensure communication with parents/carers is maintained in relation to any plans for supporting their child's medical needs in school
- Ensure access to full education if possible
- Monitor and keep appropriate records

Entitlement

The school accepts that pupils with medical needs should be assisted if at all possible and that they have a right to the full education available to other pupils.

The school believes that pupils with medical needs should be enabled to have full attendance and receive necessary proper care and support.

The school accepts all employees have rights in relation to supporting pupils with medical needs as follows:

- Choose whether or not they are prepared to be involved
- Receive appropriate training
- Work to clear guidelines
- Have concerns about legal liability
- Bring to the attention of management any concern or matter relating to supporting pupils with medical needs.

Expectations

It is expected that:

- Parents will be encouraged to co-operate in training children to administer medication if this is practicable and that member of staff will only be asked to be involved if there is no alternative.
- Where parents have asked the school to administer the medication for their child they must ask the pharmacist to supply any such medication to be dispensed in a separate container, containing only the quantity required for school use. The prescription and dosage regime should be typed or printed clearly on the outside. The school will only administer medicines in which the dosage is required 4 times a day. The name of the pharmacist should be visible. Any medications not presented properly will not be accepted by school staff. Pupils should not bring in their own medicine. This should be brought into school by the parent.
- That employees will consider carefully their response to requests to assist with the giving of medication or supervision of self-medication and that they will consider each request separately.
- The school will liaise with the School Health Service for advice about a pupil's special medical needs, and will seek support from the relevant practitioners where necessary and in the interests of the pupil.

Policy into practice

There is a need for proper documentation to be completed at all stages when considering the issue of support for pupils with medical needs in school.

This policy needs to be read in conjunction with the following school documents:

- Medicines Policy
- SEND and Inclusion Policy
- The Disability Equality Scheme

This policy is further supported by the 'Sandwell Management of Children with Medical Needs in Schools'.

RS June 2023

Review date: June 2026