



**St Augustine's Catholic Primary School**  
**Supporting Children at School with Medical Needs Policy**

**1. St Augustine's Catholic Primary School is an inclusive community that aims to support and welcome pupils with medical conditions.**

- a. The school understands that it has a responsibility to make the school welcoming and supportive to pupils with medical conditions who currently attend and to those who may enrol in the future.
- b. The school aims to provide all children with medical conditions the same opportunities as others at school.
- c. Pupils with medical conditions are encouraged, where possible, to take control of their condition.
- d. The school aims to include all pupils with medical conditions in all school activities.
- e. Parents/carers of pupils with medical conditions are aware of the care their children receive.
- f. The school ensures all members of staff understand their duty of care to children and young people in the event of an emergency.
- g. All staff have access to information about what to do in an emergency.
- h. The school understands that certain medical conditions are serious and can be potentially life-threatening, particularly if ill-managed or misunderstood.
- i. All members of staff have an understanding of the common medical conditions that may affect children. The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that staff receive appropriate updates.
- j. The medical conditions policy is understood and followed by the whole school.

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

- a. Parents/carers are informed about the medical conditions policy and that information about a child's medical condition may be shared with medical professionals:
  - by signposting access to the policy;
  - at the start of the school year when communication is sent out about IHPs;
  - when their child is enrolled as a new pupil.
- b. School staff are informed and reminded about the school's medical conditions policy:
  - through staff meetings;
  - all supply and temporary staff are informed of the policy and their responsibilities including any medical needs or IHPs related to the children in their care and how to respond in emergencies;

- staff are made aware of IHPs as they relate to their class.

**3. Relevant members of staff understand and are updated in what to do in an emergency for the most common serious medical conditions at school.**

- a. Staff are aware of the most common serious medical conditions.
- b. Staff understand their duty of care to pupils during the school day, in the event of an emergency. In an emergency situation school staff are required, under common law duty of care, to act like any reasonably prudent parent/carer. This may include administering medication.
- c. Staff receive updates for medical needs and know how to act in an emergency. Additional training is prioritised for staff members who work with children who have specific medical conditions supported by an IHP.
- d. The action required for staff to take in an emergency, for the common serious conditions at this school, is displayed in the staffroom.
- e. The school uses IHPs to inform the appropriate staff (including supply teachers and support staff) of pupils with complex health needs in their care who may need emergency help.
- f. A copy of the pupil's IHP is sent to the emergency care setting with the pupil. On occasions when this is not possible, the form is sent (or the information on it is communicated) to the hospital as soon as possible.

**4. The school has clear guidance on the administration of medication in school.**

**Administration – Emergency Medication**

- a. The school will seek to ensure that pupils with medical conditions have easy access to their emergency medication.
- b. The school will ensure that all pupils understand the arrangements for a member of staff to assist in helping them take their emergency medication safely.

**Administration – General**

- a. The school understands the importance of medication being taken as prescribed.
- b. All use of medication is carried out under the appropriate supervision of a member of staff.
- c. The school will ensure that specific training and updates will be given to all staff members who agree to administer medication to pupils if necessary.
- d. All staff are expected, under common law duty of care, to act like any reasonably prudent parent/carer in an emergency situation. This may include taking action such as assisting in administering medication or calling an ambulance.
- e. Parents/carers at this school understand that if their child's medication changes or is discontinued, or the dose or administration method changes, they should notify the school immediately. Parents/carers should provide the school with any guidance regarding the administration of medicines and/or treatment from the GP, clinics or hospital.

- f. All staff attending off-site visits are aware of any pupils on the visit who have medical conditions. They will receive information about the type of condition, what to do in an emergency and any other additional support necessary, including any additional medication or equipment needed.
- g. If a pupil requires regular prescribed medication at school, parents/carers are asked to provide consent on their child's medication plan, giving the pupil or staff permission to administer medication on a regular/daily basis, if required. This form is completed by parents/carers for pupils taking short courses of medication.
- h. All parents/carers of pupils with a complex health need, who may require medication in an emergency, are asked to provide consent on the IHP for staff to administer medication.

#### **Use of 'over the counter' (ie, non-prescription) medications**

- The school does not store or administer non-prescription medications.

#### **5. The school has clear guidance on the storage of medication at school.**

- In school we follow the recommendations of the Norfolk guidelines and DfE guidance 'Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions' (2014)
- Parents must notify in writing if any medicines need to be taken during school hours. Teachers may administer prescription medicines if parents have completed the required form, but this is up to the individual teacher.
- It is the parents' responsibility to ensure safe administration of medicines during school hours.
- No other medicines should be kept in school.
- Prescription medicines will be kept in the staffroom fridge, except for asthma inhalers, which will be kept by the class teacher and be easily accessible by users.
- In certain cases, prescribed emergency medicines (eg, for anaphylactic shock) may be kept on the school premises. These are to be kept in specifically allocated places, out of children's reach and are to be administered by named, trained staff only. Details of these medicines and their location are kept in the staff room and the office. Supply teachers are informed of this.

#### **Safe Disposal**

Parents/carers at this school are asked to collect out-of-date prescribed medication.

#### **6. This school has clear guidance about record-keeping for pupils with medical conditions.**

##### **Enrolment Forms**

- a. Parents/carers are asked if their child has any medical conditions.
- b. If a pupil has a short-term medical condition that requires medication during school hours, a medication form plus explanation is given to the pupil's parents/carers to complete.

## **Individual Health Plans**

- a. The school uses an IHP for children with complex health needs to record important details about the individual children's medical needs at school, their triggers, signs, symptoms, medication and other treatments. Further documentation can be attached to the IHP if required.
- b. Complex health needs may generate an IHP, accompanied by an explanation of why and how it is used. It is sent to all parents/carers of pupils with a complex health need:
  - at the start of the school year;
  - at enrolment;
  - when a diagnosis is first communicated to the school;
  - new diagnosis.
- c. It is the parents'/carers' responsibility to fill in the IHP and return the completed form to the school.
- d. When a member of staff is new to a pupil group, for example due to staff absence, the school ensures that they are made aware of the IHPs and needs of the pupils in their care.
- e. This school ensures that all staff protect pupils' confidentiality.
- f. This school informs parents/carers that the IHP would be sent ahead to emergency care staff, should an emergency happen during school hours or at a school activity outside the normal school day. This is included on the IHP.
- g. The information in the IHP will remain confidential unless needed in an emergency.

## **Use of Individual Health Plans**

IHPs are used to:

- inform the appropriate staff about the individual needs of a pupil with a complex health need in their care;
- identify important individual triggers for pupils with complex health needs at school that bring on symptoms and can cause emergencies.
- ensure that this school's emergency care services have a timely and accurate summary of a pupil's current medical management and healthcare in an emergency.

## **Residential Visit/School Trips**

St Augustine's Catholic Primary School makes arrangements for the inclusion of all pupils on school trips by considering what reasonable adjustments are made to enable children with medical needs to participate fully and safely on visits. Risk assessments are carried out so that planning arrangements take account of any steps needed to ensure that pupils with medical conditions are included. Consultation with parents and pupils and advice from relevant healthcare professionals takes place to ensure that pupils can participate safely.

- a. Parents/carers are sent a residential visit form to be completed and returned to school before their child leaves for an overnight or extended day visit. This form requests up-to-date information about the pupil's current condition and their overall health. This provides essential and information to relevant staff and to help manage the pupil's condition whilst they are away. This includes information about medication not normally taken during school hours.
- b. All residential visit forms are taken by the relevant staff member on visits where medication is required. These are accompanied by a copy of the pupil's IHP.

- c. All parents/carers of pupils with a medical condition attending a school trip or overnight visit are asked for consent, giving staff permission to supervise administration of medication at night or in the morning if required.
- d. A copy of the IHP and equipment/medication must be taken on off-site activities.

### **Sporting Activities/Physical Education**

- a. All teachers are aware of how a child's medical condition will impact on their participation in sporting activities and physical education.
  - b. There is enough flexibility in sporting activities and physical education for all children to participate according to their own abilities and with any reasonable adjustments.
  - c. St Augustine's Catholic Primary School makes appropriate arrangements for the inclusion of all pupils in sporting activities and physical education, ensuring that any required adjustments are made, unless there is evidence from a clinician such as a GP, stating that this is not possible.
- 7. 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.**

### **Physical Environment**

- a. St Augustine's is committed to providing a physical environment that is as accessible as possible to pupils with medical conditions.

### **Social Interactions**

- a. The school ensures the needs of pupils with medical conditions are adequately considered to ensure their involvement in structured and unstructured social activities.
  - b. This school ensures the needs of pupils with medical conditions are adequately considered to ensure they have access to extended school activities.
- 8. Each member of the school and health community knows their roles and responsibilities in maintaining an effective medical conditions policy.**

- a. The school will work in partnership with all interested and relevant parties, including the school's local governing body, school staff, and community healthcare professionals and any relevant emergency practitioners to ensure the policy is planned, implemented and maintained successfully.
- b. The following roles and responsibilities are used for the medical conditions policy.

### **Local Governors**

*Have a responsibility to:*

- ensure the health and safety of their staff and pupils;
- ensure the schools health and safety policies and risk assessments are inclusive of the needs of pupils with medical conditions and reviewed regularly;
- make sure the medical conditions policy is effectively implemented, monitored and evaluated and regularly updated;
- ensure that the school has robust systems for dealing with medical emergencies and critical incidents, at any time when pupils are on site or on out of school activities.

## **Head of School**

*Has a responsibility to:*

- ensure the school is inclusive and welcoming and that the medical conditions policy is in line with local and national guidance and policy frameworks;
- ensure the policy is put into action;
- ensure every aspect of the policy is maintained;
- monitor and review the policy at regular intervals, with input from local governors.
- ensure through consultation with the governors that the policy is adopted and put into action.

**All School Staff and Support Staff** *Have a responsibility to:*

- be aware of the potential triggers, signs and symptoms of common medical conditions and know what to do in an emergency;
- call an ambulance in an emergency;
- understand the school's medical conditions policy;
- know which pupils in their care have a complex health need and be familiar with the content of the pupil's IHP;
- know where assistance can be sought in the event of a medical emergency;
- maintain effective communication with parents/carers, including informing them if their child has been unwell at school;
- ensure pupils who need medication have it when they go on a school visit or out of the classroom;
- be aware of pupils with medical conditions who may be experiencing bullying or need extra social support;
- understand the common medical conditions and the impact these can have on pupils;
- ensure that all pupils with medical conditions are not excluded unnecessarily from activities they wish to take part in;
- ensure that pupils have the appropriate medication or food during any exercise and are allowed to take it when needed;
- follow universal hygiene procedures if handling body fluids.

## **Teaching Staff**

*Have an additional responsibility to:*

- be aware that medical conditions can affect a pupil's learning and provide extra help when pupils need it, in liaison with the SENDCO;
- liaise with parents/carers and SENDCO if a child is falling behind with their work because of their condition;
- use opportunities such as PSHE and other areas of the curriculum to raise pupil awareness about medical conditions.

## **Parents/Carers**

*Have a responsibility to:*

- tell the school if their child has a medical condition or complex health need;
- ensure the school has a complete and up-to-date IHP if their child has a complex health need;
- inform the school about the medication their child requires during school hours;
- inform the school/provider of any medication their child requires while taking part in visits, outings or field trips and other out-of-school activities;
- tell the school about any changes to their child's medication, what they take, when, and how much;
- inform the school of any changes to their child's condition;
- ensure their child's medication and medical devices are labelled with their child's full name;
- ensure that the school has full emergency contact details for them;
- provide the school with appropriate spare medication labelled with their child's name;
- ensure that their child's medication is within expiry dates;

- if the child has complex health needs, ensure their child has a written IHP for school and if necessary an asthma management plan from their doctor or specialist healthcare professional to help their child manage their condition;
- have completed/signed all relevant documentation including and the IHP if appropriate.

**9. The medical conditions policy is regularly reviewed evaluated and updated.**

- This school's medical conditions policy is reviewed, evaluated and updated in line with changes in legislation

**Ongoing Communication and Review of Individual Health Plans**

- Parents/carers are reminded to update their child's IHP if their child has a medical emergency or if there have been changes to their symptoms, or their medication and treatments change. Each IHP will have a review date.

**Storage and Access to Individual Health Plans**

- IHPs are kept in the staffroom

**10. Acceptable Practice**

Although school staff should use their discretion and judge each case on its merits with reference to the child's IHP, 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, 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 IHPs;
- if the child becomes ill, send them to the school office or staffroom unaccompanied or with someone unsuitable;
- penalise children for their attendance record if their absences are related to their medical condition eg, hospital appointments;
- 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, or otherwise make them feel obliged, to attend school to administer medication or provide medical support to their child, including with 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 school trips (eg, by requiring parents to accompany the child).