

Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy

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WATERGATE SCHOOL

'I Can, You Can, Together We Will'

Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions

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About this Policy

This Policy is governed by the statutory guidance and non-statutory advice set out in the document 'Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions' DfE, September 2014.

The policy also applies to activities taking place off-site as part of normal educational activities.

The Children and Families Act 2014 places a duty on the Governing Body to make arrangements for supporting pupils in school with medical conditions.

Key Points for Watergate School

Every effort will be made to ensure that:

- Pupils at school with medical conditions will be properly supported so that they have full access to education, including school trips and physical education.
- The Governing Body is legally responsible and accountable for ensuring that arrangements are in place in school to support pupils with medical conditions.
- The Governing Body will ensure that school leaders consult health and social care professionals, pupils and parents/carers to ensure that the needs of children with medical conditions are effectively supported.
- The needs of the children include educational impacts, and social and emotional implications associated with medical conditions.
- The Governing Body will ensure that it meets its duty under the Equality Act 2010.
- As our children have statements, or an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP), this policy operates in conjunction with the SEN Code of Practice.

The Role of the Governing Body

- 1. The Governing Body will ensure that arrangements are in place to support pupils with medical conditions. In doing so they will ensure that such children can access and enjoy the same opportunities at school as any other child.** 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. Consideration may also be given to how children will be reintegrated back into school after periods of absence.
2. To ensure the overall implementation of this policy and procedures at Watergate School.
3. To ensure that this policy, as written, does not discriminate on any grounds including, but not limited to: ethnicity/national origin, culture, religion, gender, disability or sexual orientation.
4. To handle complaints regarding this policy as outlined in the school's Complaints Policy.
5. To ensure that relevant training provided by the LA is delivered to staff members who take on responsibility to support children with medical conditions.
6. To guarantee that information and teaching support materials regarding supporting pupils with medical conditions are available to staff members with responsibility under this policy.
7. To keep written records of any and all medicines administered to individual pupils across the school population.
8. To ensure the level of insurance in place reflects the level of risk.

Policy Implementation

The Head Teacher, is responsible for ensuring that:

- Sufficient staff are suitably trained, including in the case of staff absence or staff turnover.

- All relevant staff, including supply staff, are aware of children's conditions.
- Risk assessments for school visits, holidays and other school activities outside of the normal timetable include reference to children's medical needs.
- Individual care plans are kept up to date.

Procedures to be followed when notification is received that a pupil has a medical condition:

- A school leader will consult with the relevant health and social care professionals, the pupil and parent/carers as soon as notification is received. This may include occupational therapist, physiotherapist and nursing services. Where a child is changing schools, the health and social care professionals linked to the previous setting will be consulted.
- Relevant Health & Social Care professionals, the pupil, parent/carers will contribute guidance as appropriate where a pupil is being re-integrated or where their needs have changed. This may include decisions about the rate of integration, timetable adaptations and changes, and arrangements for any staff training and support. For children new to school, arrangements should 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 Watergate School mid-term, every effort will be made to ensure that arrangements are put in place within two weeks.
- In some cases, Watergate School may not 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 medical evidence and in consultation with parent/carers. Where evidence conflicts, some degree of challenge may be necessary to ensure that the right support can be put in place, in the best interests of the child.

Individual Care Plans

The Special Needs Nursing Team Lead is responsible for ensuring the compiling of Individual Care Plans. Watergate School, care professionals and parent/carers should agree, based on evidence, when a care plan would be inappropriate or disproportionate. If consensus cannot be reached, the Head Teacher will take a final view. Individual Care Plans will be easily accessible to all who need to refer to them, while preserving confidentiality. The level of detail within plans will depend on the complexity of the child's condition and the degree of support needed.

Individual Care Plans, (and their review), may be initiated, in consultation with the parent/carer, by a member of school staff or a care professional involved in providing care to the child.

Plans will be drawn up in partnership between the school, parents/carers, and a relevant care professional, who can best advise on the particular needs of the child. For example school nursing services may contribute sections on feeding needs – gastrostomy, nasogastric, alongside specialist nurses for children with a tracheostomy. Plans for children with asthma and epilepsy will be overseen by the specialist nurse. Pupils will also be involved whenever appropriate.

The aim will be to capture the steps which Watergate School will take to help the child manage their condition and overcome any potential barriers to getting the most from their education.

Plans will be reviewed at least annually, or earlier if evidence is presented that the child's needs have changed. The plans will be developed with the child's best interests in mind and ensure that Watergate School assesses and manages risks to the child's education, health and social well-being and minimises disruption.

Where a child is returning to school following a period of hospital education or alternative provision (including home tuition), Watergate School will work with the local authority and education provider to ensure that the Individual Care Plan identifies the support the child will need to reintegrate effectively.

Contents of Individual Care Plans

These will include, as appropriate:

- The medical condition, its triggers, signs, symptoms and treatments;
- The pupil's resulting needs, including medication (dose, side-effects and storage) and other treatments, time, facilities, equipment, testing, access to food and drink where this is used to manage their condition, dietary requirements and environmental issues e.g., crowded corridors, travel time between lessons.
- The level of support needed, (some children will be able to take responsibility for their own health needs), including in emergencies. If a child is self-managing their medication, this should be clearly stated with appropriate arrangements for monitoring;
- Who will provide this support, their training needs, expectations of their role and confirmation of proficiency to provide support for the child's medical condition from a care professional; and cover arrangements for when they are unavailable;
- Who in the school needs to be aware of the child's condition and the support required;
- Arrangements for written permission from parent/carers and the head teacher for medication to be administered by a member of staff, or self-administered by the pupil during school hours;
- Separate arrangements or procedures required for school trips or other school activities outside of the normal school timetable that will ensure the child can participate, e.g. risk assessments;
- Where confidentiality issues are raised by the parent/child, the designated individuals to be entrusted with information about the child's condition; and
- What to do in an emergency, including whom to contact, and contingency arrangements. Where children have an emergency care plan prepared by their lead clinician, this will be used to inform development of their Individual Care Plan.

Roles and Responsibilities

Partnership working between school staff, care professionals (and where appropriate, social care professionals), local authorities, parent/carers and pupils is critical in providing effective support, to ensure that the needs of pupils with medical conditions are met effectively. Collaborative working arrangements between all those involved, showing how they will work in partnership is set out below:

- **The Governing Body** - will make arrangements to support pupils with medical conditions in school, including making sure that this policy for supporting pupils with medical conditions in school is developed and implemented. They will ensure that a pupil with medical conditions is supported to enable the fullest participation possible in all aspects of school life. **The Governing Body will ensure that sufficient staff have received suitable training and are competent before they take on responsibility to support children with medical conditions.** They will also ensure that any members of school staff who provide support to pupils with medical conditions are able to access information and other teaching support materials as needed.
- The **Headteacher** – will ensure that this policy is developed and effectively implemented with partners. This includes ensuring that all staff are aware of the policy for supporting pupils with medical conditions and understand their role in its implementation. The Headteacher will ensure that all staff who need to know are aware of the child's condition. They should also ensure that sufficient trained numbers of staff are available to implement the policy and deliver against all individual care plans, including in contingency and emergency situations. This may involve recruiting a member of staff for this purpose. The Headteacher has overall responsibility for the development of Individual Care Plans. The Headteacher will also make sure that school staff are appropriately insured and are aware that they are insured to support pupils in this way. The Headteacher will be responsible for contacting the school nursing service in the case of any child who has a medical condition that may require support at school, but who has not yet been brought to the attention of the school nurse.

- **School staff** - any member of school staff may be asked to provide support to pupils with medical conditions, including the administering of medicines, although they cannot be required to do so. Although administering medicines is not part of teachers' professional duties, they should take into account the needs of pupils with medical conditions that they teach. School staff will receive sufficient and suitable training and achieve the necessary level of competency before they take on responsibility to support children with medical conditions. Any member of school staff should know what to do and respond accordingly when they become aware that a pupil with a medical condition needs help.
- **Special Needs Nursing Team (SNNT)** - are responsible for notifying the school when a child has been identified as having a medical condition which will require support in Watergate School. Wherever possible, they will do this before the child starts at the school. They may support staff on implementing a child's Individual Care Plan and provide advice and liaison, for example on training. SNNT may liaise with lead clinicians locally on appropriate support for the child and associated staff training needs. Community nursing teams will also be a valuable potential resource for Watergate School seeking advice and support in relation to children with a medical condition.
- **Other care professionals**, including GPs and paediatricians - should notify the school nurse when a child has been identified as having a medical condition that will require support at school. They may provide advice on developing care plans. Specialist local health teams will be asked to provide support for children with particular conditions (e.g. asthma, diabetes and epilepsy).
- **Pupils** – with medical conditions may be best placed to provide information about how their condition affects them. They will be as involved as possible in discussions about their medical support needs and contribute as much as possible to the development of, and comply with, their individual care plan. Other pupils will be encouraged to be sensitive to the needs of those with medical conditions.

- **Parent/Carers** – should provide the school with sufficient and up-to-date information about their child's medical needs. They may in some cases be the first to notify the school that their child has a medical condition. Parents/carers are key partners and will be involved in the development and review of their child's individual care plan, and may be involved in its drafting. They should carry out any action they have agreed to as part of its implementation, e.g. provide medicines and equipment and ensure they or another nominated adult are contactable at all times.
- **Local Authorities (LA)** – are commissioners of school nurses for maintained schools and academies. Under Section 10 of the Children Act 2004, they have a duty to promote cooperation between relevant partners such as governing bodies of maintained schools, proprietors of academies, clinical commissioning groups and NHS England, with a view to improving the well-being of children so far as relating to their physical and mental health, and their education, training and recreation. Local authorities should provide support, advice and guidance, including suitable training for school staff, to ensure that the support specified within individual care plans can be delivered effectively. Local authorities should work with schools to support pupils with medical conditions to attend full time. where pupils would not receive a suitable education at Watergate School because of their health needs, the local authority will be contacted to fulfil its duty to make other arrangements. Statutory guidance for local authorities sets out that they should be ready to make arrangements under this duty when it is clear that a child will be away from schools for 15 days or more because of health needs (whether consecutive or cumulative across the school year).
- **Providers of health services** - should co-operate with Watergate School in the support of children with a medical condition, including appropriate communication, liaison with school nurses and other care professionals such as specialist and children's community nurses, as well as participation in locally developed outreach and training. Good relationships with health services will be fostered and developed as they can provide valuable

support, information, advice and guidance to school, to support children with medical conditions at school.

Watergate School will work with:

Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) – these commission other care professionals such as specialist nurses. They should ensure that commissioning is responsive to children's needs, and that health services are able to co-operate with schools supporting children with medical conditions. They have a reciprocal duty to cooperate under Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 (as described above for local authorities). Clinical commissioning groups should be responsive to local authorities and schools seeking to strengthen links between health services and schools, and consider how to encourage health services in providing support and advice, (and can help with any potential issues or obstacles in relation to this). The local Health and Wellbeing Board will also provide a forum for local authorities and CCGs to consider with other partners, including locally elected representatives, how to strengthen links between education, health and care settings.

Ofsted - Their inspection framework places a clear emphasis on meeting the needs of disabled children and pupils with SEN, and considering the quality of teaching and the progress made by these pupils. Inspectors are already briefed to consider the needs of pupils with chronic or long-term medical conditions alongside these groups and to report on how well their needs are being met. Watergate School will make this policy available and be able to demonstrate that this is implemented effectively.

Staff Training and Support

Any member of school staff providing support to a pupil with medical needs will have received suitable training.

This will have been identified during the development or review of Individual Care Plans. Where staff already have some knowledge of the specific support needed by a child with a medical condition, extensive training may not be required. Staff who provide support to pupils with medical conditions will be included in meetings where this is discussed.

The relevant care professional will normally lead on identifying and agreeing with Watergate School, the type and level of training required, and how this can be obtained. Watergate School may choose to arrange the training themselves and will ensure this remains up-to-date.

Training will be sufficient to ensure that staff are competent and have confidence in their ability to support pupils with medical conditions, and to fulfil the requirements as set out in individual care plans. This will include an understanding of the specific medical conditions they are being asked to deal with, their implications and preventative measures.

Staff must not give prescription medicines or undertake health care procedures without appropriate training (updated to reflect any individual care plans).

A first-aid certificate does not constitute appropriate training in supporting children with medical conditions. Care professionals, including the school nurse, will provide confirmation of the proficiency of staff, in a medical procedure, or in providing medication.

All staff will be made aware of the school's policy for supporting pupils with medical conditions and their role in implementing that policy with the policy available for reference on the school server.

Induction arrangements for new staff will include reference to this policy. The advice of the relevant care professionals will be taken on training that will help ensure that all medical conditions affecting pupils in the school are understood fully. This will include preventative and emergency measures so that staff can recognise and act quickly when a problem occurs.

The family of a child will often be key in providing relevant information to school staff about how their child's needs can be met. Parent/carers will be asked for their views and may provide specific advice, but should not be the sole trainer.

The details of continuing professional development provision opportunities will be provided to staff as appropriate.

The Child's Role in Managing Their Own Medical Needs

After discussion with parent/carers, children who are competent will be encouraged to take responsibility for managing their own medicines

and procedures. This will be reflected within individual care plans. Wherever possible, guided by safety considerations, children will be able to access their medicines or relevant devices for self-medication quickly and easily. Children who can take their medicines themselves or manage procedures will have an appropriate level of supervision. If it is not appropriate for a child to self-manage, then relevant staff will help to administer medicines and manage procedures for them. If a child refuses to take medicine or carry out a necessary procedure, staff will not force them to do so, but follow the procedure agreed in the Individual Care Plan. Parent/carers should be informed so that alternative options can be considered.

Managing Medicines on School Premises

At Watergate School:

- Medicines will only be administered at school when it would be detrimental to a child's health or school attendance not to do so.
- No child under 16 should be given prescription or non-prescription medicines without their parent's/carer's written consent - except in exceptional circumstances where the medicine has been prescribed to the child without the knowledge of the parent/carer. In such cases, every effort should be made to encourage the child or young person to involve their parent/carer, while respecting their right to confidentiality. Non-prescription medicines may only be administered with written parent/carer permission.
- A child under 16 will never be given medicine containing aspirin unless prescribed by a doctor. Medication, e.g. for pain relief, will never be administered without first checking maximum dosages and when the previous dose was taken. Where permission for paracetamol to be administered has been given, unless a parent/carer can be contacted to check times, it will not be given before 12:30pm. A parent/carer will be informed.
- Where clinically possible, Watergate School will ask for medicines to be prescribed in dose frequencies which enable them to be taken outside school hours.
- Watergate 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 to school inside an insulin pen or a pump, rather than in its original container.

- All medicines must be stored safely. Children should know, where appropriate, where their medicines are at all times. Medicines and devices such as asthma inhalers, blood glucose testing meters and adrenaline pens will be always readily available to children and not locked away. This is particularly important to consider when outside of school premises e.g. on school trips.
- Watergate School will keep controlled drugs that have been prescribed for a pupil securely stored in a non-portable container and only named staff will have access. Controlled drugs will be easily accessible in an emergency. A record will be kept of any doses used and the amount of the controlled drug held in school.
- School staff may administer a controlled drug to the child for whom it has been prescribed. Staff administering medicines will do so in accordance with the prescriber's instructions. Watergate School will 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 will be noted.
- When no longer required, medicines will be returned to the parent/carer to arrange for safe disposal via the bus escort hand to hand. Sharps boxes will always be used for the disposal of needles and other sharps.

Record Keeping

The Governing Body is responsible for ensuring that written records are kept of all medicines administered to children.

On a day –to-day basis, staff administering medication will keep written records of all medicines given, and sign to confirm the details. Parent/carers will be informed if their child has been unwell at school, either by home-school book, phone call or in person as appropriate.

Written records for Buccal Midazolam are kept in the Medicine cupboard in Watergate Admin Office.

Written records for all medication are kept in the Medical Room.

Emergency Procedures

Watergate School's First Aid Policy sets out what should happen in an emergency.

Where a child has an Individual Care Plan, this will clearly define what constitutes an emergency and explain what to do, including ensuring that all relevant staff are aware of emergency symptoms and procedures.

Where appropriate, other pupils in school will be briefed on what to do in general terms, such as informing a member of staff immediately if they think help is needed.

If a child needs to be taken to hospital, staff will stay with the child until the parent/carer arrives, or accompany a child taken to hospital by ambulance.

Day Trips, Residential Visits and Sporting Activities

Pupils with medical conditions will be actively supported to participate in school trips and visits, or in sporting activities, so that their condition does not prevent them from doing so.

Teachers will be aware of how a child's medical condition will impact on their participation, but be flexible enough to enable all children to participate according to their own abilities and with any reasonable adjustments. Watergate School 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.

Watergate School staff will consider what reasonable adjustments they might make to enable children with medical needs to participate fully and safely on visits. The lead member of staff will carry out a risk assessment so that planning arrangements take account of any steps needed to ensure that pupils with medical conditions are included. This may require consultation with parents/carers and pupils and advice from the relevant care professional to ensure that pupils can

participate safely. (Please also see Health and Safety Executive (HSE) guidance on school trips.)

Other Issues

- Home to School Transport – parent(s)/carer(s) are to notify transport of a pupil's Individual Care Plan and what it contains, especially in respect of emergency situations. This information will contribute to the development of transport care plans for pupils with life threatening conditions.
- Defibrillators – in the event of sudden cardiac arrest, which can happen to people at any age and without warning, quick action (in the form of early CPR and defibrillation) can help save lives. Watergate have two defibrillators, which are stored in the school office and in the office next to the swimming pool.

Unacceptable Practice

School staff will use their discretion and judge each case on its merits with reference to each child's Individual Care Plan.

Watergate School understands that it is acceptable practice to:

- Prevent children from easily accessing their inhalers and medication.
- Where a child is able, to prevent them administering their medication; themselves under adult supervision and in line with safety;
- 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 individual care 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;
- 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 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/carers to accompany the child.

Liability and Indemnity

Governing bodies must ensure that the appropriate level of insurance is in place and appropriately reflects the level of risk.

The school's insurance arrangements cover staff providing support to pupils with medical conditions. These insurance policies are accessible to staff providing such support.

Insurance policies will provide liability cover relating to the administration of medication, and individual cover is arranged for particular health care procedures .e.g. tracheostomy care and suction, gastrostomy and nasogastric feeding. The level and ambit of cover required will be ascertained directly from the relevant insurers. Any requirements of the insurance, such as the need for staff to be trained, will be made clear and complied with.

It is noted that in the event of a claim alleging negligence by a member of staff, civil actions are likely to be brought against the employer.

Full written insurance policy documents are available via the School Business Manager (SBM) to be viewed by those members of staff who are providing support to pupils with medical conditions.

Complaints


The procedure for making a complaint is set out in the *Watergate School Complaints Policy* available to parent/carers/pupils on the school website. Watergate School hope that should parents/carers or pupils be dissatisfied with the support provided, they will discuss their concerns directly with school first. If for whatever reason this does not resolve the issue, they may make a formal complaint via the school's complaints procedure.

Definitions

"Medication" is defined as any prescribed medicine.

"Prescription medication" is defined as any drug or device prescribed by a doctor.

A "staff member" is defined as any member of staff employed at Watergate School

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| This policy was agreed by the Headteacher on: (and supersedes all previous policies relating to this area) | |
| Signed by:  (Headteacher) | |
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