

## **Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy**

Grantham Farm Montessori School is an inclusive community that supports and welcomes pupils with medical conditions. We provide children with medical conditions with the same opportunities and access to activities (both school-based and out of school) as other pupils. In line with the duty, which came into force on 1st September 2014, to support pupils at school with medical conditions Grantham Farm Montessori School is committed to ensuring that all children with medical conditions, in terms of both physical and mental health, are properly supported so that they can play a full and active role in school life, remain healthy and achieve their academic potential. No child with a medical condition will be denied admission or prevented from taking up a place in our school because arrangements for their medical condition have not been made.

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

This policy will be reviewed regularly and it is readily accessible to parents and school staff.

### **Policy implementation**

Emma Wetherley and Gitte Bailey have overall responsibility for the implementation of this policy and as such they will:

- ensure that sufficient staff are suitably trained
- ensure that all relevant staff will be made aware of the child's condition
- cover arrangements in case of staff absence or staff turnover to ensure someone is always available
- brief supply teachers
- carry out risk assessments for school visits and other school activities outside the normal timetable
- monitor individual healthcare plans

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

When our school is notified that a pupil has a medical condition we will:

- make arrangements for any staff training or support
- make every effort to ensure that arrangements are put in place within two weeks
- not wait for a formal diagnosis before providing support to pupils

### **Individual healthcare plans**

Parents are required to complete a child details form before starting at Grantham Farm Montessori School. There is a section on this form that asks parents to inform the school of any health or medical condition(s) their child suffers from. Any parent reporting that their child has an ongoing medical condition such as asthma, epilepsy, diabetes or more complex medical conditions will be asked to complete an Individual Healthcare Plan

(IHP). It is a legal requirement that this is updated annually. At our school we will ensure that plans are reviewed at least annually, or earlier if evidence is presented that the child's needs have changed. We will assess and manage risks to the child's education, health and social wellbeing, and minimises disruption.

Our IHP (see appendix 1) requires information about:

- 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.
- Specific support for the pupil's educational, social and emotional needs – for example, how absences will be managed, requirements for extra time to complete work, use of rest periods or additional support in catching up with lessons, counselling sessions.
- The level of support needed (NB. 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 healthcare 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 parents and the headteacher for medication to be administered by a member of staff, or self-administered by the pupil during school hours.
- 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.
- What to do in an emergency, including whom to contact, and contingency arrangements. Some children may have an emergency healthcare plan prepared by their lead clinician that could be used to inform development of their individual healthcare plan.

### **Roles and responsibilities**

At our school those people involved in arrangements to support pupils at school with medical conditions include:

- Emma Wetherley **Head Teacher and Health and Safety Officer**
- Gitte Bailey **Senior First Aider & Deputy Health and Safety Officer**
- Caroline Imi **SenCo & Deputy Head Teacher**
- Caroline Palmer **Deputy Head Teacher**

**All staff have been trained in paediatric first aid**

### **Staff training and support**

Staff are supported in carrying out their role to support pupils with medical conditions through appropriate training; this is recorded on the administration of medications staff training form (Appendix 2). Training needs are assessed regularly and training will be provided.

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

No member of staff will give prescription medicines or undertake healthcare procedures without appropriate training or instruction (updated to reflect requirements within individual healthcare plans).

### **The child's role in managing their own medical needs**

Where children are deemed competent to manage their own health needs and medicines by their parents and medical professional they will be supported to do this. We see this as an important step towards preparing pupils for the next stage of their education.

### **Pupils with medical conditions (out of school)**

There will be occasions when children are temporarily unable to attend our school on a full time basis because of their medical needs. These children are likely to be:

- children suffering from long-term illnesses
- children with long-term post-operative or post-injury recovery periods
- children with long-term mental health problems (emotionally vulnerable)

Where this is the case, we will:

- Work with the child's parents to arrange suitable full-time education (or as much education as the child's health condition allows) for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would otherwise not receive suitable education
- Provide such education as soon as it is clear that the child will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative. We will work with parents and liaise with appropriate medical professionals to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the child
- Ensure that the education children receive is of good quality, as defined in the statutory guidance Alternative Provision (2013), provides continuity of learning and progress for the child as far as is reasonably possible, prevents them from slipping behind their peers in school and allows them to reintegrate successfully back into school as soon as possible
- Address the needs of individual children in arranging provision. 'Hard and fast' rules are inappropriate: they may limit the offer of education to children with a given condition and prevent their access to the right level of educational support which they are well enough to receive. Strict rules that limit the offer of education a child receives may also breach statutory requirements

Where a child is below compulsory school age and it is clear that an absence will be for more than 15 continuous school days the Education and Inclusion Service will be contacted to support with the pupil's education.

We will not:

- Have processes or policies in place which prevent a child from getting the right type of provision and a good education
- Withhold or reduce the provision, or type of provision, for a child because of how much it will cost (meeting the child's needs and providing a good education must be the determining factors)
- Have policies based upon the percentage of time a child is able to attend school rather than whether the child is receiving a suitable education during that attendance
- Have lists of health conditions which dictate whether or not they will arrange education for children or inflexible policies which result in children going without suitable full-time education (or as much education as their health condition allows them to participate in)

### **Managing medicines on school premises**

It is the policy of Grantham Farm Montessori School that:

- 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 will be given prescription or non-prescription medicines without their parent's written consent
- We will never give 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.
- Parents will be informed
- Where clinically possible, we will expect that medicines will be prescribed in dose frequencies which enable them to be taken outside school hours
- We will only accept prescribed medicines if they:
  - **are in-date**
  - **are labelled**
  - **are provided in the original container as dispensed by a pharmacist**
  - **include instructions for administration, dosage and storage.** *(NB The exception to this is insulin, which must still be in date, but will generally be available to schools inside an insulin pen or a pump, rather than in its original container)*
- All medicines will be stored safely.
- Children will know where their medicines are at all times and will be able to access them immediately. Where relevant, they will know who holds the key to the storage facility. 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, including when pupils are outside the school premises, e.g. on school trips
- When no longer required, medicines will be returned to the parent to arrange for safe disposal. Sharps boxes will always be used for the disposal of needles and other sharps

- **We 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 in school.**

### **Non-prescribed medicines**

Following on from 'Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions December 2015' we have decided that at our school we will not administer non-prescription medicines other than liquid paracetamol (Calpol) or Piriton. These will only be administered when it would be detrimental to the child not to give them and only with the parent / guardian's permission.

### **Record keeping**

We will ensure that written records are kept of all medicines administered to children. We recognise that records offer protection to staff and children and provide evidence that agreed procedures have been followed. Parents will be informed if their child has been unwell at school.

### **Emergency procedures**

Our school's accident and emergency policy sets out what should happen in an emergency situation.

### **Day trips, residential visits and sporting activities**

We always actively support pupils with medical conditions to participate in school trips and visits, or in sporting activities, and not prevent them from doing so.

As a school we believe it to be unacceptable 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 for reasons associated with their medical condition 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;
- 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, e.g. by requiring parents to accompany the child

### **Liability and indemnity**

Grantham Farm Montessori School is insured for public liability and indemnity.

### **Complaints**

If you have a complaint about how your child’s medical condition is being supported in school please contact the Headteacher in the first instance.

### **Emergency Asthma Inhalers**

Since 2015 schools may hold asthma inhalers for emergency use. This is entirely voluntary, and the Department of Health has published a protocol which provides further information. As a school we have not agreed to keep emergency inhalers. Every child has different medical needs and it is the policy of the school that all prescribed medicines administered must be exactly as prescribed by the child’s GP.

<b>This policy was adopted on</b>	<b>Signed on behalf of the school</b>	<b>Date for review</b>
<i>September 2023</i>	<i>E. Wetherley</i>	<i>September 2024</i>