

# MOTTRAM ST. ANDREW PRIMARY ACADEMY



## POLICY FOR SUPPORTING PUPILS WITH MEDICAL CONDITIONS

### Introduction

Mottram St. Andrew Primary Academy is an inclusive community that welcomes and supports pupils with medical conditions so that they can play a full and active role in all aspects of school life, remain as healthy as possible and achieve their academic potential.

*Children and young people with medical conditions are entitled to a full education and have the same rights of admission to school as other children. This means that no child with a medical condition can be denied admission or prevented from taking up a place in school because arrangements for their medical condition have not been made. However, in line with their safeguarding duties, governing bodies should ensure that pupils' health is not put at unnecessary risk from, for example, infectious diseases. They therefore do not have to accept a child in school at times where it would be detrimental to the health of that child or others to do so.*

Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions, DfE, December 2015

This policy takes into account the school's legal duties under the Children and Families Act 2014 to make arrangements to support pupils with medical conditions, as well as its duties under the Equality Act 2010.

### Aims

To ensure that all children with medical conditions are properly supported in school so that they can play a full and active role in school life, remain healthy and achieve their academic potential.

### Information Regarding a Child's Medical Needs

On joining school all parents complete a Google Form with information about their child. This includes information about any medical needs. This is updated whenever a parent informs school of any changes. There is an annual check with parents that the information we hold is still correct. Parents are responsible for informing the school of any new diagnosis, or changes to their child's medical condition, as soon as possible.

At the beginning of the school year, any ongoing medications needed, including for asthma and allergies, are shared with staff via a password protected file. Photos of children and medical information are displayed in the staff room. Any allergy information is also displayed in the kitchen.

### Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP)

For more complex or serious medical needs, including where there is a high risk of an emergency situation, an Individual Healthcare Plan will be developed. This will focus on the needs of the individual child and how their medical condition impacts on their school life.

IHPs should aim to capture the key information and actions that are required to support the child effectively. The format of an Individual Healthcare Plan will vary, so that it can be written to provide the greatest clarity for the specific needs of the individual child. The level of detail will also vary, depending on the complexity of the condition and the degree of support needed. The plan will always be discussed with parents and advice gained from any supporting medical professionals as needed.

When formulating an IHP the following will be considered:

- Details of the medical condition, including any triggers, signs, symptoms and treatments.
- Medication (dose, side effects and storage).
- Could the condition lead to an emergency situation? If so what constitutes an emergency, and what action is needed in an emergency?
- Are there any dietary needs/implications?
- Will any additional support be needed to implement the IHP and who will provide it?
- Are there any training needs for staff, and if there are who will provide the training?
- Will there be any difficulties with the school environment?
- Does the child have any Special Educational Needs and if so how does that impact on managing their medical condition?
- Are there any social or emotional implications for the child that we need to be aware of and support?

As a child's needs are likely to change over time, Individual Healthcare Plans will be updated annually or earlier if the child's needs have changed.

### **Staff Training**

Staff training requirements will be identified according to the needs of individual children. Often training is available from professionals involved with the child, for example, specialist epilepsy or diabetic nurses.

### **Responsibility**

The headteacher has overall responsibility for the implementation of this policy. Responsibility for the formulation of and monitoring of an Individual Healthcare Plan may be delegated to the SENCo or an appropriate member of the Senior Leadership Team. All staff who work with a child will have responsibility for meeting their medical needs, including both children with and without an IHP.

### **Educational Visits and Extra-Curricular Activities**

It is important that children with medical conditions are able to participate safely on educational visits and in extra-curricular activities. We will consider what reasonable adjustments need to be made to enable full participation, and actions will be taking whenever possible to enable safe participation

All educational visits have a lead member of staff. It is the responsibility of the lead member of staff to complete a risk assessment for the visit. The needs of children with medical conditions are considered during this process and plans are put in place for any medication, equipment or support that may be required.

### **Attendance**

As a school we recognise the importance of regular attendance. However, we understand that children with medical conditions may need to miss school for appointments and periods of illness. Therefore, we do not have systems in school that provide rewards for high attendance, as we know that would penalise children who are unavoidably absent for medical reasons. When a child with a medical need has frequent unavoidable absences, class teachers will be aware of the need to assess and address any gaps in learning.

When a child has a longer absence they may have a period of hospital education or alternative provision such as home tuition. We will liaise with the educational provider to ensure that the child receives the support they need to reintegrate effectively into school. Please see the Policy Statement for Children with Health Needs who Cannot Attend School

### **Medication**

Please see the Medication Policy for procedures for the administration of medication in school.