



Tweseldown Infant School Policy for Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions

Rationale

Section 100 of The Children and Families Act 2014 places a duty on the Governing Body to make arrangements for supporting children with medical conditions. Tweseldown Infant School will undertake to comply with this legislation and follow the statutory guidance produced by The Department of Education 'Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions'.

1. Aims and Objectives

Children 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 should 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, governors 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.

Tweseldown Infant School is an inclusive school that welcomes and supports pupils with medical conditions. The school endeavours to provide children with medical conditions the same opportunities as other pupils in school. This includes school trips, visitors and sporting activities.

Tweseldown Infant school ensures that all staff understand their duty of care to children and young people in the event of an emergency.

Tweseldown Infant School recognises that all children with the same medical condition will not necessarily have the same needs. The school also recognises that medical needs can change over time.

Tweseldown Infant School understands the importance of medication and care being taken as directed by healthcare professionals and parents.

2. Medical care plan

All children with a medical condition whether short term or long term will have a medical care plan. Medical care plans will be drawn up using information gathered from parents. The medical care plans will be displayed in school so that all relevant staff are aware of a pupil's medical condition, symptoms of condition any triggers and what procedures to follow in an emergency. A copy of medical care plans are also kept in each class's individual first aid rucksack. These are also displayed in classrooms, office, kitchen and given to lunchtime supervisors. Emergency medication, such as inhalers and epi-pens are also stored in these bags.

Medical care plans are reviewed annually in the autumn term. It is parent's responsibility to inform the school of any changes to medication, symptoms, triggers or administration of medication as soon as possible to ensure continuity of care.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

Supporting a child with a medical condition during school hours is not the sole responsibility of one person. School will work in partnership with healthcare professional, social care professionals, Local Authorities, Parents and Pupils

Governing Body

The Governing Body will make arrangements to support children with medical conditions in school and ensure that a policy is developed and implemented. 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

Headteacher

The Headteacher will ensure that:

- the school's policy is developed and effectively implemented with partners
- all staff are aware of the policy and understand their role in its implementation
- all staff that need to know are aware of the child's condition

School Staff

- Should ensure that they are aware of children with medical conditions in their class. They should ensure that they are aware of any triggers, symptoms and arrangements for administration of medicines.
- Allow all pupils to have immediate access to their medication.
- Understand common medical conditions and the impact it can have on pupils and their learning.
- may be asked to provide support to children with medical conditions, including administration of medicines (although they cannot be required to do so)
- will receive sufficient and suitable training and achieve the necessary level of competency before they take on the responsibility to support children with medical conditions

School Nurse

Every school has access to school nursing services. They are responsible for:

- notifying the school when a child has been identified as having a medical condition which will require support in school
- liaising with lead clinicians locally on appropriate support for the child and associated staff training needs and by providing advice and liaising with staff on the implementation of a child's medical care.

Parents

- will provide the school with sufficient and up to date information about their child's medical needs
- will be involved in the development and review of their child's Medical care plan
- will provide medicines and equipment and ensure they, or another nominated adult, are contactable at all times
- The family of a child will be key in providing relevant information to school staff about how their child's needs can be met
- if a child refuses to take medicine or carry out a necessary procedure, staff will not force them to do so. Parents will be informed when the medication has not been administered for this reason and it will be parent's responsibility to make appropriate arrangements for administration of medication.

SENDCo (Special Needs and disability) Team

Will be responsible for developing the medical care plans with information from parents a copy of the finished care plan will be given to parents for approval, it is parent's responsibility to ensure that all details are correct.

4. Managing Medicines on School Premises

Please see administration of medicines policy

Record Keeping

Written records will be kept of all medicines administered to children in school. Parents will be informed if their child has been unwell in school. Only prescribed medication can be administered.

Emergency Procedures

- Where a child has a medical 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. Other children in the school should know what to do in general terms such as informing a teacher immediately if they think help is needed
- if a child needs to be taken to hospital, staff should stay with the child until the parent arrives or accompany a child to hospital in an ambulance

Off-site Activities

School will make arrangements for the inclusion of children in such activities with any adjustments as required unless evidence from a clinician states that this is not possible.

A risk assessment will be carried out so that planning arrangements take account of any steps needed to ensure that pupils with medical conditions are included (refer to guidance on school trips)

Unacceptable Practice

Staff are expected to use their discretion and judge each child's individual medical care plan on its merits. It is not generally acceptable to:

- Prevent children from 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 a 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 care plan.
- Send a child that is unwell to the office unaccompanied
- Penalise children for their attendance record if their absences are related to their medical condition.
- Prevent children from drinking, eating or taking toilet breaks whenever they need to in order to manage their medical condition effectively.
- Require parents or make them feel obliged, to attend school to administer medication or provide medical support to their child, including toileting issues.
- Prevent children from participating, or create unnecessary barriers to children participating in any aspect of school life.
- Require parents or make them feel obliged to accompany their child on off-site activities, including school trips.

5. Liability and Indemnity

Staff at the school are indemnified under the County Council self-insurance arrangements. The County Council is self-insured and have extended this self-insurance to indemnify school staff who have agreed to administer medication or undertake a medical procedure to children. To meet the requirements of the indemnification, we will ensure that staff have parental permission for administering medicines and staff will have had training on the administration of the medication or medical procedure.

Date of latest review: January 2023

Date ratified by Governing Body: January 2023

Signed by Chair of Governors: 

Signed by Head Teacher:

Next review date: Spring 2024

Member of staff responsible: SENDCo

Governing Body or governor(s)/committee(s) responsible: Full Governing Body

Linked Policies-

Administration of medicines

Data Protection

COSH