



HEBER PRIMARY SCHOOL

MEDICAL CONDITIONS POLICY

Supporting children with special medical needs

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Definition

Pupils' medical needs may be broadly summarised as being of two types:

(a) Short-term needs affecting their participation in school activities when they are on a course of medication.

(b) Long-term needs potentially limiting their access to education and requiring extra care and support (deemed *special medical needs*).

Rationale

LAs and schools have a responsibility for the health and safety of pupils in their care. The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 makes employers responsible for the health and safety of employees and anyone else on the premises. In the case of pupils with special medical needs, the responsibility of the employer is to make sure that safety measures cover the needs of all pupils at the school. This may mean making special arrangements for particular pupils who may be more at risk than their classmates. Individual procedures may be required. The employer is responsible for making sure that relevant staff know about and are, if necessary, trained to provide any additional support these pupils may need.

The Children and Families Act 2014, from September 2014, places a duty on schools to make arrangements for children with medical conditions. **Pupils with special medical needs have the same right of admission to school as other children and cannot be refused admission or excluded from school on medical grounds alone.** However, teachers and other school staff in charge of pupils have a common law duty to act in loco parentis and may need to take swift action in an emergency. This duty also extends to teachers leading activities taking place off the school site. This could extend to a need to administer medicine.

The prime responsibility for a child's health lies with the parent who is responsible for the child's medication and should supply the school with information. The school takes advice and guidance from the Nursing service. Contact details for our School Nurse are as follows

Shamso Abdulle

Shamso.Abdulle@gstt.nhs.uk

Actions

The school will:

- assist parents in providing medical care for their children
- educate staff and children in respect of special medical needs
- adopt and implement the LA policy of Medication in Schools
- arrange training for volunteer staff to support individual pupils
- liaise as necessary with medical services in support of the individual pupil
- ensure access to full education if possible.
- monitor and keep appropriate records.

The school

- accepts that pupils with medical needs should be assisted if at all possible and that they have a right to the full education available to other pupils.
- believes that pupils with medical needs should be enabled to have full attendance and receive necessary proper care and support.
- Will liaise with the School Nursing Service for advice about a pupil's special medical needs and will seek support from the relevant practitioners where necessary and in the interests of the pupil.

The school accepts all employees have rights in relation to supporting pupils with medical needs.

Employees: -

- May choose whether or not they are prepared to be involved in the care of a child with a medical condition.
- Will consider carefully their response to requests to assist with the giving of medication or supervision of self-medication and that they will consider each request separately.
- Should receive appropriate training
- Should work to clear guidelines
- Should be informed about legal liability
- Should bring to the attention of management any concern or matter relating to supporting pupils with medical needs.

The role of Parents

- Parents will be encouraged to co-operate in training children to self-administer medication if this is practicable and that members of staff will only be asked to be involved if there is no alternative
- Where parents have asked the school to administer the medication for their child they must ask the pharmacist to supply any such medication to be dispensed in a separate container, containing only the quantity required for school use. The prescription and dosage regime should be typed or printed clearly on the outside. The school will only administer medicines when the dosage is required 3 times a day if there is no alternative. The name of the pharmacist should be visible. Any medications not presented properly will not be accepted by school staff. Pupils should not bring in their own medicine. This should be brought into school by the parent

Any medicines brought into school by the staff e.g. headache tablets, inhalers for personal use should be stored in an appropriate place and kept out of the reach of the pupils. Any staff medicine is the responsibility of the individual concerned and not the school.