



Supporting pupils with medical conditions POLICY

May 2017

Supporting pupils with medical conditions policy

The Academy of Woodlands continues to work towards providing an educational environment which is inclusive of all the needs of the children. A child is recognised as having Special Educational Needs when they require provision that is additional to that of their peers within mainstream.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following school policies Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy and Safeguarding Policy.

Definitions of medical Conditions

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

Short-term affecting their participation at school because they are on a course of medication.

Long-term potentially limiting access to education and requiring on-going support, medicines or care while at school to help them to manage their condition and keep them well, including monitoring and intervention in emergency circumstances. It is important that parents feel confident that the school will provide effective support for their child's medical condition and that pupils feel safe.

Some children with medical conditions may be considered disabled. Some may also have special educational needs (SEN) and may have a statement or Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

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

This covers notification prior to admission, procedures to cover transitional arrangements between schools or alternative providers, and the process to be followed upon reintegration after a period of absence or when pupils' needs change. For children being admitted to The Academy of Woodlands for the first time with good notification given, the arrangements will be in place for the start of the relevant school term. In cases other cases, such as a new diagnosis or a child moving to The Academy of Woodlands mid-term, we will make every effort to ensure that arrangements are put in place within two weeks.

We acknowledge that some may be more obvious than others. We will therefore ensure that the focus is on the needs of each individual child and how their medical condition impacts on their school life. We aim to ensure that parents/carers and pupils can have confidence in our ability to provide effective support for medical conditions in school, so the arrangements will show an understanding of how medical conditions impact on the child's ability to learn, as well as increase their confidence and promote self-care.

We will ensure that staff are properly trained and supervised to support pupils' medical conditions and will be clear and unambiguous about the need to support actively pupils with medical conditions to participate in school trips and visits, or in sporting activities, and not prevent them in doing so. We 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. We will make sure that no child with a medical condition is denied admission or

prevented from attending the school because arrangements for supporting their medical condition have not been made. However, in line with our safeguarding duties, we will ensure that all pupils' health is not put at unnecessary risk from, for example infectious disease. We will therefore not accept a child in school at times where it would be detrimental to the health of that child or others.

The Academy of Woodlands does not have to 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 available evidence. This would normally involve some form of medical evidence and consultation with parents/carers. Where evidence conflicts, some degree of challenge may be necessary to ensure that the right support can be put in place. These discussions will be led by the Head Teacher and following these discussion an individual healthcare plan will written in conjunction with the parent/carers by the SENCO, and be put in place.

Individual healthcare plans

Individual healthcare plans will help to ensure that The Academy of Woodlands effectively supports pupils with medical conditions. They will provide clarity about what needs to be done, when and by whom. They will often be essential, such as in cases where conditions fluctuate or where there is a high risk that emergency intervention will be needed. They are likely to be helpful in the majority of other cases too, especially where medical conditions are long-term and complex. However, not all children will require one. The school, healthcare professional and parent/carer should agree, based on evidence, when a healthcare plan would be inappropriate or disproportionate

Individual healthcare plans will be easily accessible to all who need to refer to them, while preserving confidentiality. Plans will capture the key information and actions that are required to support the child effectively. The level of detail within the plan will depend on the complexity of the child's condition and the degree of support needed. This is important because different children with the same health condition may require very different support.

Individual healthcare plans (and their review) should be drawn up in partnership between the school, parents/carers and a relevant healthcare professional eg school, specialist or children's community nurse, who can best advise on the particular needs of the child

The Academy of Woodlands will ensure that individual healthcare plans are reviewed at least annually or earlier if evidence is presented that the child's needs have changed. They will be developed and reviewed with the child's best interests in mind and ensure that The Academy of Woodlands assesses and manages risks to the child's education, health and social wellbeing, and minimises disruption. Where a child is returning to school following a period of hospital education or alternative provision, we will work with the local authority and education provider to ensure that the individual healthcare plan identifies the support the child will need to reintegrate effectively.

Staff training and support

The following staff have received general training

School first aiders (full certificate) are:

Name - post (date trained)

Name - post (date trained)

Paediatric First Aiders:

names as above

Named people for administering medicines:

Names as above

The following staff have received Specific/specialist training:

Name - post (date trained in which procedure)

Etc

All staff will receive induction training and regular whole school awareness training so that all staff are aware of the school's policy for supporting pupils with medical conditions and their role in implementing the policy. The Headteacher, will seek advice from relevant healthcare professions about training needs, including 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, and parents will be asked for their views. They should provide specific advice, but should not be the sole trainer.

The child's role in managing their own medical needs

If, after discussion with the parent/carer, it is agreed that the child is competent to manage his/her own medication and procedures, s/he will be encouraged to do so. This will be reflected in the individual healthcare plan.

Wherever possible children will be allowed to carry their own medicines and relevant devices or should be able to access their medication for self-medication quickly and easily; these will be stored in the cupboard in the first aid room to ensure that the safeguarding of other children is not compromised. The Academy of Woodland does also recognise that children who take their medicines themselves and/or manage procedures may require 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 should not force them to do so, but follow the procedure agreed in the individual healthcare plan. Parents will be informed so that alternative options can be considered.

Managing medicines on school premises and record keeping

At The Academy of Woodlands the following procedures are to be followed:

- Medicines should 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 12 should be given prescription or non-prescription medicines without their parent's written consent - except in exceptional circumstances.
- No non-prescription medicines will be administered at school.
- Where clinically possible, medicines should be prescribed in dose frequencies which enable them to be taken outside school hours;
- The Academy of Woodlands will only accept prescribed medicines, with written permission from parent/carer 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 be in-date, but will generally be available to schools inside an insulin pen or a pump, rather than its original container;
- All medicines will be stored safely in the First Aid Room. Children should know where their medicines are at all times and be able to access them immediately. Where relevant, they should know who holds the key to the storage facility, held by office staff in the office opposite.
- Medicines and devices such as asthma inhalers, blood glucose testing meters and adrenaline pens should be always readily available state where and not locked away. Asthma inhalers should be marked with the child's name.
- During school trips the first aid trained member of staff will carry all medical devices and medicines required;
- A child who had been prescribed a controlled drug may legally have it in their possession if they are competent to do so, but passing it to another child for use is an offence. Monitoring arrangements may be necessary. Otherwise we will keep all 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 should be easily accessible in an emergency. A record should be kept of any doses used and the amount of the controlled drug held in the school;
- Staff administering medicines should do so in accordance with the prescriber's instructions. The Academy of Woodlands 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 should be noted. Written records are kept of all medicines administered to children. These records offer protection to staff and children and provide evidence that agreed procedures have been followed;
- When no longer required, medicines should be returned to the parent/carer to arrange safe disposal. Sharps boxes should always be used for the disposal of needles and other sharps.

- All Medicines will be administered according to Individual Healthcare plans or for short term medications, Written parental agreement.

Emergency procedures

The Headteacher will ensure that arrangements are in place for dealing with emergencies for all school activities wherever they take place, including school trips within and outside the UK, as part of the general risk management process.

Where a child has an individual healthcare plan, this should 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 pupils 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 taken to hospital by ambulance. Schools need to ensure they understand the local emergency services cover arrangements and that the correct information is provided for navigation systems.

Day trips, residential visits, and sporting activities

We will actively support pupils with medical condition to participate in day trips, residential visits and sporting activities by being flexible and making reasonable adjustments unless there is evidence from a clinician such as a GP that this is not possible.

We will always conduct a risk assessment so that planning arrangements take account of any steps needed to ensure that pupils with medical conditions can be included safely. This will involve consultation with parents\carers and relevant healthcare professions and will be informed by Health and Safety Executive (HSE) guidance on school trips.

Other issues for consideration

The Academy of Woodlands has a defibrillator on site with appropriately trained staff. This is located at the Art's Centre Reception.

Once regulations have changed the Governing Body will consider whether to hold asthma inhalers on site for emergency use.

Unacceptable practice

Although staff at The Academy of Woodlands should use their discretion and judge each case on its merit with reference to the child's individual healthcare plan, it is not generally acceptable 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\carers; 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 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, eg hospital appointments;
- Prevent pupils from drinking, eating or taking toilet 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 creating unnecessary barriers to children participating in any aspect of school life, including school trips, eg by requiring parents to accompany the child.

Concerns

Should parents\carers be unhappy with any aspect of their child's care at The Academy of Woodlands, they must discuss their concerns with the school. This will be with the child's class teacher in the first instance, with whom any issues should be addressed. If this does not resolve the problem or allay the concern, the problem should be brought to a member of the SENCO team, who will, where necessary, bring concerns to the attention of the Headteacher.

Policy: May 2017

Head Teacher: _____

The Academy of Woodlands Director: _____

Parental agreement for setting to administer medicine

The school/setting will not give your child medicine unless you complete and sign this form, and the school or setting has a policy that the staff can administer medicine.

Date for review to be initiated by

Name of school/setting

Name of child

Date of birth

Group/class/form

Medical condition or illness

Medicine

Name/type of medicine
(as described on the container)

Expiry date

Dosage and method

Timing

Special precautions/other
instructions

Are there any side effects that the
school/setting needs to know about?

Self-administration – y/n

Procedures to take in an emergency

NB: Medicines must be in the original container as dispensed by the pharmacy

Contact Details

Name

Daytime telephone no.

Relationship to child

Address

I understand that I must deliver the
medicine personally to

[agreed member of staff]

The above information is, to the best of my knowledge, accurate at the time of writing and I give consent to school/setting staff administering medicine in accordance with the school/setting policy. I will inform the school/setting immediately, in writing, if there is any change in dosage or frequency of the medication or if the medicine is stopped.

Signature(s) _____

Date