

Brown Clee C.E.Primary School  
Medical Conditions and Supporting  
Pupils with Special Medical Needs



## Policy Statement

Reviewed September 2018  
Future review date September 2019

## **Definition**

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

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

(b) Long-term 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 Shropshire Council Medicines in Schools section of the Health and Safety Policy which encourages self- administration of medication when possible. Contact details for our School Nurse can be found in the school prospectus which also states a copy of this policy is available to parents.

## **Aims**

The school aims to:

- 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.

## **Entitlement**

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.

The school believes that pupils with medical needs should be enabled to have full attendance and receive necessary proper care and support.

The school accepts all employees have rights in relation to supporting pupils with medical needs as follows:

- choose whether or not they are prepared to be involved;
- receive appropriate training;
- work to clear guidelines;
- have concerns about legal liability;
- bring to the attention of management any concern or matter relating to supporting pupils with medical needs.

## **Expectations**

- It is expected that: 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 in which the dosage is required 4 times a day. The name of the pharmacist should be visible. Any medications not presented properly will not be accepted by school staff. It is always best for parents to bring any medicines into school so the relevant paperwork can be signed. However, if this is impossible the medicine must be in a sealed strong envelope with a signed note indicating the contents, dosage and date.
- that employees 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.
- the school will liaise with the School Health 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.
- 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.

### **Policy into Practice**

There is a need for proper documentation at all stages when considering the issue of support for pupils with medical needs in school.

### **ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICINES POLICY**

Brown Clee School adheres to the Shropshire LA Health and Safety Policy.

#### **Administration of medicine**

No teacher can be required to administer medicine or drugs to a pupil or supervise pupils taking medication. They may, however undertake these tasks if they are willing to do so.

Parents/carers must have given written permission for staff to administer medicine and, where necessary, staff must receive appropriate training.

The school requires written instructions from the parents on how to administer the medication.

A record showing date and time of medicine given is kept with the consents in the office.

**Medicines that are brought into school must be:**

- in the original bottle/ packaging in which prescribed
- clearly labelled with:
  - the child's name
  - contents
  - dosage
  - date

**Storage of medicines**

Medicines are kept in a locked cupboard in the school office.

Medicines that need to be kept refrigerated are kept in a container in the refrigerator in the staff room.

**Asthma Inhalers**

If a child suffers from asthma, the parental request form for the administration of medicine should be completed when the child enters school.

Inhalers (relievers) should be available immediately (within one minute) and used if the child becomes breathless or wheezy or starts to cough excessively. These should be kept where the child can access them readily.

Inhalers should be taken to sporting events and PE lessons and used during exercise if required.

NB These cause no harm if taken by a non-asthmatic.

**EPI-pens**

If a pupil is prescribed an Epi-pen it is stored by the First aid cupboard in the School Office so that they can be accessed immediately if needed. The containers should be clearly labelled with the child's name and contain instructions for use. The school nurse should give Epi-pen training to staff annually if a child in school is prescribed an Epi-pen.

The particular training of staff, and the storage of other specific medication, will depend on the advice given by the relevant nurses.

Parents and carers are encouraged to provide the school with full information about their child's medical needs and these are recorded on the school registration form and passed to class teachers, to be noted on record sheets.

For more information please go to: <http://notes2.shropshire.local/schools/index.nsf>

and follow the links *Personnel, Human Resources and Health and Safety* to:

- the medical arrangements guidelines and procedures for schools pdf
- asthma, guidance for schools pdf