



# BALFOUR

## JUNIOR SCHOOL

### Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions

Agreed by the LGB – 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Next review: September 2025

# 1. Aims

**This policy aims to ensure that:**

- Pupils, staff, and parents understand how our school will support pupils with medical conditions
- Pupils with medical conditions are properly supported to allow them to access the same education as other pupils, including school trips and sporting activities

**The Local Governing Board will implement this policy by:**

- Making sure sufficient staff are suitably trained
- Making staff aware of pupils' conditions, where appropriate
- Making sure there are cover arrangements to ensure someone is always available to support pupils with medical conditions
- Providing supply teachers with appropriate information about the policy and relevant pupils
- Developing and monitoring individual healthcare plans (IHPs)
- Ensuring that there is a named person with responsibility for implementing this policy in each school.

## 2. Legislation and statutory responsibilities

This policy meets the requirements under [Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014](#), which places a duty on maintained schools and academies to make arrangements for supporting pupils at their school with medical conditions.

It is also based on the Department for Education's statutory guidance on [supporting pupils with medical conditions at school](#).

This policy also complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

## 3. Roles and responsibilities

**The school will designate a named person responsible for children with medical conditions. This person is responsible for:**

- Informing relevant staff of medical conditions.
- Arranging training for identified staff. This training will include universal training (e.g., first aid at work) and, as required, that which is necessary to deliver specific support for a pupil's condition (e.g. administration of medication, management of feeding). Training will be sufficient to ensure staff are competent and have confidence to fulfil the requirements set out in the Individual Health Care Plans (IHCPs).

**Training will be provided by qualified healthcare professionals.**

- Ensuring that staff are aware of the need to communicate necessary information about medical conditions to supply staff and, where appropriate, taking the lead in communicating this information
- Assisting with risk assessment for school visits and other activities outside the normal timetable.
- Developing, monitoring, and reviewing IHCPs.
- Working together with parents, pupils, healthcare professionals and other agencies.

**The Headteacher is responsible for:**

- Overseeing the management and provision of support for pupils with medical conditions.
- Ensuring that sufficient, appropriately trained numbers of staff are available to implement the policy and deliver IHCPs, including to cover absence and staff turnover.
- Ensuring that School staff are appropriately insured and are aware that they are insured.



**Teachers and support staff are responsible for:**

- The day-to-day management of the medical conditions of pupils they work with, in line with training received and as set out in IHCPs.
- Working with the named person, ensuring that risk assessments are carried out for school visits and other activities outside the normal timetable.
- Providing information about medical conditions to supply staff, who will be covering their role where the need for supply staff is known in advance.

N.B. Supporting pupils with medical conditions during school hours is not the sole responsibility of one person. Any member of staff may be asked to provide support to pupils with medical conditions, although they will not be required to do so. This includes the administration of medicines.

Those staff who take on the responsibility to support pupils with medical conditions will receive sufficient and suitable training and will achieve the necessary level of competency before doing so.

Teachers will take into account the needs of pupils with medical conditions that they teach. All staff will know what to do and respond accordingly when they become aware that a pupil with a medical condition needs help.

**The designated health care professional or school nurse designated by the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is responsible for:**

- Notifying the school when a pupil has been identified as having a medical condition which will require support in the school. Wherever possible, this should be done before the pupil starts at the school.
- Providing support for staff on implementing a pupil's IHCP and providing advice and liaison, including with regard to training.
- Contribute to annual or emergency reviews schedule EHCPs.
- Deliver medical interventions and support directly to pupils as agreed between the School and the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG). Liaise with parents/carers about the necessary interventions and support.

**Parents will be responsible for:**

- Providing the school with sufficient and up-to-date information about their child's medical needs
- Involvement in the development and review of their child's IHCP and may be involved in its drafting
- Carrying out any action they have agreed to as part of the implementation of the IHCP, e.g. provide medicines and equipment, and ensure they or another nominated adult are contactable at all times

**Pupils**

Pupils with medical conditions will often be best placed to provide information about how their condition affects them. Pupils should be fully involved in discussions about their medical support needs and contribute as much as possible to the development of their IHCPs. They are also expected to comply with their IHCPs.



## 4. Equal Opportunities

Our school is clear about the need to actively support pupils with medical conditions to participate in school trips and visits, or in sporting activities, and not prevent them from doing so.

The school will consider what reasonable adjustments need to be made to enable these pupils to participate fully and safely on school trips, visits and sporting activities.

Risk assessments will be carried out so that planning arrangements take account of any steps needed to ensure that pupils with medical conditions are included. In doing so, pupils, their parents and any relevant healthcare professionals will be consulted.

## 5. Notification that a child has a medical condition

When the school is notified that a pupil has a medical condition, the process outlined in the school's procedures for supporting pupils with a medical condition will be followed, which will also determine if the pupil requires an IHCP.

The school will make every effort to ensure that arrangements are put into place within 2 weeks, or by the beginning of the relevant term for pupils who are new to the school.

## 6. Individual Healthcare Plans (IHCP)

The Headteacher of the school has overall responsibility for the development of IHCPs for pupils with medical conditions. If the responsibility has been delegated to the Senior First Aider, the staff member's name will be published on the school's website under the Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions procedures.

Plans will be reviewed at least annually, or earlier if there is evidence that the pupil's needs have changed.

Plans will be developed with the pupil's best interests in mind and will set out:

- What needs to be done
- When
- By whom

Not all pupils with a medical condition will require an IHCP. It will be agreed with a healthcare professional and the parents when an IHCP would be inappropriate or disproportionate. This will be based on evidence. If there is no consensus, the Headteacher will make the final decision. Plans will be drawn up in partnership with the school, parents, and a relevant healthcare professional, such as the school nurse, specialist or paediatrician, who can best advise on the pupil's specific needs. The pupil will be involved wherever appropriate.

IHCPs will be linked to, or become part of, any Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). If a pupil has Special Educational Needs (SEN) but does not have an EHCP, the SEN will be mentioned in the IHCP.

The level of detail in the plan will depend on the complexity of the child's condition and how much support is needed. The Governing Board and the Headteacher/Senior First Aider, will consider the following when deciding what information to record on IHCPs:

- The medical condition, its triggers, signs, symptoms, and treatments
- The pupil's resulting needs, including medication (dose, side effects and storage) and other treatments, time, facilities, equipment, testing, access to food and drink where this is used to manage their condition, dietary requirements and environmental issues, e.g. crowded corridors, travel time between lessons
- Specific support for the pupil's educational, social, and emotional needs. For example, how absences will be managed, requirements for extra time to complete exams, use of rest periods or additional support in catching up with lessons, counselling sessions



- The level of support needed, including in emergencies. If a pupil is self-managing their medication, this will be clearly stated with appropriate arrangements for monitoring
- Who will provide this support, their training needs, expectations of their role and confirmation of proficiency to provide support for the pupil's medical condition from a healthcare professional, and cover arrangements for when they are unavailable
- Who in the school needs to be aware of the pupil's condition and the support required
- Arrangements for written permission from parents and the Headteacher for medication to be administered by a member of staff, or self-administered by the pupil during school hours
- Separate arrangements or procedures required for school trips or other school activities outside of the normal school timetable that will ensure the pupil can participate, e.g. risk assessments
- Where confidentiality issues are raised by the parent/pupil, the designated individuals to be entrusted with information about the pupil's condition
- What to do in an emergency, including who to contact, and contingency arrangements

## 7. Managing medicines

Prescription and non-prescription medicines will only be administered at school:

- When it would be detrimental to the pupil's health or school attendance not to do so **and**
- Where we have parents' written consent

**The only exception to this is where the medicine has been prescribed to the pupil without the knowledge of the parents.**

Pupils under 16 will not be given medicine containing aspirin unless prescribed by a doctor.

Anyone giving a pupil any medication (for example, for pain relief) will first check maximum dosages and when the previous dosage was taken. Parents will always be informed.

The school will only accept prescribed medicines that are:

- In-date
- Labelled
- Provided in the original container, as dispensed by the pharmacist, and include instructions for administration, dosage and storage

The school will accept insulin that is inside an insulin pen or pump rather than its original container, but it must be in date.

All medicines will be stored safely. Pupils will be informed about where their medicines are at all times and be able to access them immediately. Medicines and devices such as asthma inhalers, blood glucose testing meters and adrenaline pens will always be readily available to pupils and not locked away. Medicines will be returned to parents to arrange for safe disposal when no longer required.

### Antibiotics

We are not able to administer antibiotics to pupils. Guidance states that antibiotics should not routinely be given in school. Three times a day antibiotics such as amoxicillin should be given in the morning before school/setting, immediately after school and at bedtime.

If your child is prescribed a course of antibiotics and you require guidance or support as to how they are best administered, please contact the school office.



## 7.1 Controlled drugs

Controlled drugs are prescription medicines that are controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001 and subsequent amendments, such as morphine or methadone.

A pupil who has been prescribed a controlled drug may have it in their possession if they are competent to do so, but they must not pass it to another pupil to use. All other controlled drugs are kept in a secure cupboard in the school office and only named staff have access.

Controlled drugs will be easily accessible in an emergency and a record of any doses used and the amount held will be kept.

## 7.2 Pupils managing their own needs

Pupils who are competent will be encouraged to take responsibility for managing their own medicines and procedures. This will be discussed with parents and it will be reflected in their IHCPs.

Pupils will be allowed to carry their own medicines and relevant devices wherever possible. Staff will not force a pupil to take a medicine or carry out a necessary procedure if they refuse but will follow the procedure agreed in the IHCP and inform parents so that an alternative option can be considered, if necessary.

## 7.3 Unacceptable practice

School staff should use their discretion and judge each case individually with reference to the pupil's IHCP, but it is generally not acceptable to:

- Prevent pupils from easily accessing their inhalers and medication, and administering their medication when and where necessary
- Assume that every pupil with the same condition requires the same treatment
- Ignore the views of the pupil or their parents
- Ignore medical evidence or opinion (although this may be challenged)
- Send children with medical conditions home frequently for reasons associated with their medical condition or prevent them from staying for normal school activities, including lunch, unless this is specified in their IHCPs
- If the pupil becomes ill, send them to the school office or medical room unaccompanied or with someone unsuitable
- Penalise pupils for their attendance record if their absences are related to their medical condition, e.g. hospital appointments
- Prevent pupils from drinking, eating, or taking toilet or other breaks whenever they need to, to manage their medical condition effectively
- Require parents, or otherwise make them feel obliged, to attend school to administer medication or provide medical support to their pupil, including with toileting issues. No parent should have to give up working because the school is failing to support their child's medical needs
- Prevent pupils from participating, or create unnecessary barriers to pupils participating in any aspect of school life, including school trips, e.g. by requiring parents to accompany their child
- Administer, or ask pupils to administer, medicine in school toilets

## 8. Emergency procedures

Staff will follow the school's normal emergency procedures (for example, calling 999). All pupils' IHCPs will clearly set out what constitutes an emergency and will explain what to do.

If a pupil needs to be taken to hospital, staff will stay with the pupil until the parent arrives or accompany the pupil to hospital by ambulance.



## 9. Training

Staff who are responsible for supporting pupils with medical needs will receive suitable and sufficient training to do so.

The training will be identified during the development or review of IHCPs. Staff who provide support to pupils with medical conditions will be included in meetings where this is discussed.

The relevant healthcare professionals will lead on identifying the type and level of training required and will agree this with the Headteacher/Senior First Aider. Training will be kept up to date.

### Training will:

- Be sufficient to ensure that staff are competent and have confidence in their ability to support the pupils
- Fulfil the requirements in the IHPs
- Help staff to have an understanding of the specific medical conditions they are being asked to deal with, their implications and preventative measures

Healthcare professionals will provide confirmation of the proficiency of staff in a medical procedure, or in providing medication.

All staff will receive training so that they are aware of this policy and understand their role in implementing it, for example, with preventative and emergency measures so they can recognise and act quickly when a problem occurs. This will be provided for new staff during their induction.

## 10. Record keeping

The Governing Board will ensure that written records are kept of all medicine administered to pupils for as long as these pupils are at the school. Parents will be informed if their pupil has been unwell at school. IHCPs are kept in a readily accessible place which all staff are aware of.

## 11. Liability and indemnity

The Governing Board of the School will ensure that the appropriate level of insurance is in place and appropriately reflects the school's level of risk.

We will ensure that we are a member of the Department for Education's risk protection arrangement (RPA).

## 12. Complaints

Parents with a complaint about their child's medical condition should discuss these directly with the Headteacher/Senior First Aider in the first instance. If the Headteacher/Senior First Aider cannot resolve the matter, they will direct parents to the school's complaints procedure.

## 13. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed and approved by the Governing Board annually.

## 14. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Equality information and objectives
- First aid
- Safeguarding
- Special educational needs information report and policy

