

Hatherley Infant School



Managing medicines and supporting pupils with medical conditions

We want to ensure your needs are met. If you would like this document in any other format, please contact us:

admin@hatherley-inf.gloucs.sch.uk

Agreed: September 2016

Review Date: September 2018

Policy Statement

The school policy is to support inclusion and attendance of pupils who have a medical condition. The school will therefore support administration of long term medication and medical techniques where this is necessary for the pupil to continue to be educated at school. The school will also put in place procedures to deal with emergency medical needs.

To this end procedures have been established to ensure that all concerned, staff, parents, pupil/students and, where relevant, health professionals are aware of the pupil's condition and what steps have been agreed either to manage the condition on a daily basis or to be implemented in case of an emergency.

It is stressed however that the administration of medication is undertaken on a voluntary basis by staff and it will only be done where the procedures are followed.

The Children and Families Act 2014 requires Governing Bodies to ensure that arrangements are in place to support pupils with medical conditions. The DfE guidance 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions' (December 2015) can be found via the link below:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/484418/supporting-pupils-at-school-with-medical-conditions.pdf

Hatherley Infant School takes account of the statutory guidance and its Governors ensure that the school's policy is implemented effectively.

It recognises the following key points:

- Pupils at school with medical conditions should be properly supported so that they have full access to education, including school trips and physical education.
- Governing bodies must ensure that arrangements are in place in schools to support pupils at school with medical conditions.
- Governing bodies should ensure that school leaders consult health and social care professionals, pupils and parents to ensure that the needs of children with medical conditions are properly understood and effectively supported.

Although school staff should use their discretion and judge each case on its merits with reference to the child's individual healthcare plan, Hatherley Infant School recognises the following as generally unacceptable practice:

- preventing children from easily accessing their inhalers and medication and administering their medication when and where necessary;
- assuming that every child with the same condition requires the same treatment;
- ignoring the views of the child or their parents; or ignore medical evidence or opinion (although this may be challenged);
- sending 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 individual healthcare plans;
- penalising children for their attendance record if their absences are related to their medical condition, e.g. hospital appointments;
- preventing pupils from drinking, eating or taking toilet or other breaks whenever they need to in order to manage their medical condition effectively;
- requiring parents, 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
- preventing children from participating, or create unnecessary barriers to children participating in any aspect of school life, including school trips, e.g. by requiring parents to accompany the child.

Legal requirements

The Health & Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, and subordinate legislation, requires that organisations ensure the health and safety of persons at work and persons affected by their work. Pupils/students attending schools fall under this general legal requirement as they are affected by the work of the school. Where a pupil/student has a medical need a safe system needs to be implemented to manage the condition.

The Equality Act 2010 requires that persons with disabilities are not discriminated against. Pupils who require support for medical needs may be viewed as persons with disabilities because they have 'a physical impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day to day activities'.

It is stressed however that there is no legal requirement that requires staff to administer medication and **it is the parents who have the prime responsibility for their child's health.**

Staff administering medication or providing other medical support have generally done so voluntarily.

Considerations

Head Teachers are required to ensure that policies and procedures are implemented that ensure the health, safety and welfare of persons at work and persons affected by the work. In the case of medical needs the policies and procedures implemented must clearly indicate:

- a) What medical needs can or will be supported by the school.
- b) What is expected of parents/carers.
- c) The paperwork that must be completed to enable the school to assess whether it can manage the medical need.
- d) The paperwork that must be in place before medical needs support can be provided.
- e) How the provision will be maintained/reviewed.

Definitions

Daily Care Requirements – These are the agreed actions that will take place in school to help manage the medical condition on a daily basis. This could be administration of medication, carrying out medical techniques or simply to remind and/or supervise a pupil taking medication.

Emergency Action – This is action that will be taken in the event of a medical emergency. Action will be to dial 999 unless a pupil exhibits certain defined symptoms that are covered by a health care plan and an alternative has been specified, e.g. phone parent/carers, administer emergency medication.

Emergency Medication – This is medication held in school which will be administered if specified symptoms are observed in a student who has been identified with a medical condition and for which a health care plan is in place.

Emergency Situation – This is a situation where a pupil/student exhibits certain defined symptoms that have been identified as requiring emergency action.

Health Care Plan (HCP) – This is the agreed plan to be followed in managing a medical need and will include day to day support and/or details of emergency action to be taken as appropriate.

Long Term Medication – This is prescribed medication required to manage a long term medical need, i.e. asthma, epilepsy etc.

Medical Condition – This is a condition that has been identified by medically qualified personnel.

Medical Techniques – These are specialist techniques which will either be undertaken routinely or in an emergency situation. Staff must have received appropriate information, instruction, training and supervision as identified as necessary when preparing the HCP.

Procedures

The following are the procedures that are to be followed in school to ensure the management of medical needs.

LONG TERM MEDICAL NEEDS

Step 1 – Obtain Information on Pupil long term Medical Conditions

Prior to children starting at school parents/carers are requested to complete information on their child's health and, prior to the start of each subsequent year, they are asked to update this information. This will be done using the Data File Information Sheet. In addition to medical conditions the form also requests information on emergency contacts

NB: Parents/carers are not required to disclose information but if they do not it must be made clear to them that this will prevent the school from ensuring the safety of their child.

Step 2 – Assess the information provided

The health and emergency contact form, see form 1, should include additional detail where medication will be brought onto site and/or where staff are expected to provide support in administering medication or carrying out medical techniques. The following are the general assessment criteria to be followed:

a) Where there is an indication pupils/students will undertake self-administration of long term medication - The information provided will be used initially to assess whether the pupil will be allowed to self administer, this decision being based on the pupil's maturity, the type of medication and the environment. If it is decided that the pupil can self administer a further decision will be taken as to whether the medication can be carried or should be kept in office/class/fridge. In these cases no HCP will be produced but the daily care requirements, what the medication is and what might constitute an emergency for the pupil will be added to the class/year group medical record form, see form 4 attached.

NB: Whenever medication is brought onto site the medication must be labelled to indicate who it is for and the dose required.

b) Where the form indicates that a student will require assistance to administer long term medication - The information provided will initially be used as the basis for discussion with staff as to whether the assistance can be provided. If not the responsibility will fall to the parent but it will be advised that the situation be discussed with consultant/GP as it may be possible to vary when medication needs to be provided. If staff feel able to support the administration of medication then a further decision is required to decide whether there is a need for a HCP. Unless the request is simply to remind the pupil/student to take medication or store and hand out medication a HCP, see form 2 attached, should be produced.

c) Where the form indicates that staff may be required to undertake medical techniques - The information from the form will initially be used as the basis for discussion with staff to see if they are happy to provide the support. If they are not then the Head Teacher will look at other possibilities and discuss these with the parents/carers. Where staff agree to provide support they must be provided with information, instruction, training and supervision as necessary and a HCP, see form 2 attached, must be produced.

d) Where the form indicates there are allergic reactions that may require emergency medication to be administered – The information from the form will be considered. There are many allergies that pupils have which are generally not life threatening, e.g. hay fever, but any pupil with anaphylaxis, which is an extreme allergic reaction, will require the completion of a HCP, see form 2 attached.

e) Where there is information on allergies – This needs to be considered as a whole school issue and in case of food allergies information must be shared with catering and guidance should be issued to parents on what other children can bring to school. It will usually be sufficient to include such information on the class/year group medical record form, see form 4 attached.

Step 3 – Complete HCP

Where the assessment has indicated a HCP is needed and agreement has been reached with staff to either administer medication or support a pupil with medical techniques, an individual HCP must be completed. This plan will be based on information provided by the parents/carers or by medically qualified personnel as appropriate. The HCP should be reviewed if there is a change in circumstance. It is the duty of the parents/carers to check the expiry date of all medication provided for use at school.

Any support identified as necessary when completing the HCP, whether in terms of facilities, equipment or training must be provided.

Information on where medication is to be stored must be clearly stated.

Step 4 – Add information to Summary Sheet

Compile the information on the medical needs of pupils and then add to the class/year group medical record form, see form 4 attached. This information aims to make staff aware of these issues and know who has a medical need and what that is. It must include as much detail as possible about what constitutes an emergency situation and what the daily care requirements are if any.

Step 5 – Record Keeping

It is necessary to record whenever medication is administered or there is a need to undertake a medical technique. Form 3 attached should be completed for each individual whether the administration of medication or the medical technique undertaken is planned or an emergency intervention.

Step 6 – Review

Parents/carers need to be reminded regularly to update the school concerning their child's medical needs and a review of the existing procedures needs to occur whenever this happens or there is any reason to suspect the HCP is out of date or ineffective.

SHORT TERM MEDICATION

It is the Governors decision that staff will not administer short term medication (i.e. antibiotics) unless it interferes with their course of treatment ie medicine needs to be given 4 times a day at regular intervals. If a child requires short term medication, in the first instance, provision will be made to allow parents/carers to come in to school during the day to administer the medication to their own child.

Common Medical Conditions

The following provides some general information on medical conditions that occur frequently in schools or which have caused concerns in terms of the management of the condition.

1 - ASTHMA

a) What is Asthma? Asthma is a condition which affects the airways. When a person comes into contact with a trigger, something that irritates their airways, the muscles around the walls of the airways tighten so that the airways become narrower making it difficult to breath. It is a common condition that appears to be increasingly prevalent in children with one in ten children having asthma in the UK. Most schools will therefore have pupils/students attending who have asthma.

b) What are the Symptoms? The most common symptoms are coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath and tight feelings in the chest.

c) What medication is used? There are two main types of medicines used to treat asthma, relievers and preventers.

Relievers (blue inhalers) are medicines taken immediately to relieve asthma symptoms. These are taken during an asthma attack and sometimes before exercise. They are therefore the most common type of inhaler in schools but the dosage for each pupil/student will vary. **Preventers** (brown, red, orange inhalers, sometimes tablets) are used to control swelling and inflammation in the airway, stopping them being so sensitive and reducing the risk of severe attacks. These will normally be used outside of school hours.

d) Emergency Arrangements – The information in the Health Care Plan under this heading will normally indicate the following or similar:

Should (name of pupil/student) have difficulty breathing, or continue to cough, or appear to be wheezy **he/she** should be given the **opportunity/encouraged** to use **his/her** medication immediately. If it is possible to identify the trigger and remove it, i.e. move indoors out of cold air or away from pollen, then this should be done. The pupil should be **comforted/given support** as appropriate.

If after medication is administered there is no improvement in the condition or the condition deteriorates, then medical advice must be sought and/or an ambulance called and family contact notified.

NB the medication can take some 5 to 10 minutes to take effect but if the child is becoming distressed or unduly tired call an ambulance.

e) Daily Care Requirements – The information in the Health Care Plan under this heading will normally indicate the following or similar:

(Name of pupil/student) will make use of **his/her inhaler/nebuliser regularly/as and when required**. This may be more frequently in cold weather or prior to PE. The pupil/student will normally require (indicate usual number of “puffs”) ___ puffs.

The **inhaler/nebuliser** contains (add information on chemical) _____ and is kept in **classroom/office/carried by the pupil/student**. The **inhaler/nebuliser** is marked with **his/her** name. The pupil/student is able to use the **inhaler/nebuliser with assistance/without assistance**.

f) Competence – All staff are able to assist in reminding pupils/supervising pupils taking the medication. The parent/carer/school nurse/first aider will demonstrate the use of inhalers/nebulisers as appropriate.

For additional information see Asthma UK website www.asthma.org.uk

2 - EPILEPSY

a) What is Epilepsy? Epilepsy is a neurological condition, also known as a seizure disorder, characterised by recurrent epileptic seizures. At least one in 200 children have epilepsy so most schools will at some stage have a pupil/student attending with epilepsy.

b) What types of seizures occur?

- **Tonic Clonic Seizures** - During tonic phase of a tonic clonic seizure the muscles become rigid and the person usually falls to the ground. Incontinence may occur. The pupil's pallor may change to a dusky blue colour. Breathing may be laboured during the seizure. During the clonic phase of the seizure these will gradually cease. The pupil may feel confused for

several minutes after a seizure. Recovery times will vary with some pupils requiring a few seconds to recover whilst others will need to sleep for several hours.

- **Absence Seizures** - These are short periods of staring, or blanking out and are non-convulsive generalised seizures. They last only a few seconds and are most often seen in children. A pupil/student having this kind of seizure is momentarily completely unaware of anyone/anything around him/her, but quickly returns to full consciousness without falling or loss of muscle control. These seizures are so brief that the person may not notice that anything has happened. Parents and teachers may think that the pupil is being inattentive or is day dreaming.
- **Partial Seizures** - Partial seizures are those in which the epileptic activity is limited to a particular area of the brain. There are two main types as below:
 - **Simple Partial Seizures** (when consciousness is not impaired) This seizure may be presented in a variety of ways depending on where in the brain the epileptic activity is occurring.
 - **Complex Partial Seizures** (when consciousness is impaired) This is the most common type of partial seizure. During a temporal lobe complex partial seizure the person will experience some alteration in consciousness. They may be dazed, confused and detached from their surroundings. They may exhibit what appears to be strange behaviour, such as plucking at their clothes, smacking their lips or searching for an object.

c) What Medication is used? Pupils/students will be provided with an anti-epileptic drug (AED) to prevent further seizures. The choice of drugs depending on the patient and the type of epilepsy they have. They may also have emergency medication which is to be administered in case of a fit or seizure.

d) Emergency Arrangements – The information in the Health Care Plan will vary considerably but will indicate the symptoms where known, i.e. in case of tonic clonic seizures whether the pupil will fall to the ground, become incontinent etc. The information in the Health Care Plan under this heading will normally indicate the following or similar:

Should (Name of pupil/student) suffer a seizure, which will normally involve _____, nothing is to be done to stop or alter the course of the seizure unless emergency medication is required. The **pupil/student** should not be moved unless the **pupil/student** is in a dangerous place, but something soft can be placed under **his/her** head. The **pupil/student's** airway must be maintained at all times. The **pupil/student** should not be restrained and there should be no attempt to put anything into the mouth. Once the convulsion has stopped, the **pupil/student** should be turned on **his/her** side and put into the recovery position. Someone should stay with the pupil/student until **he/she** recovers and re-orientates.

or

Should (Name of pupil/student) **suffer an epileptic fit which lasts for __ minutes or more/suffers (insert number) __ of seizures then he/she** will need to have emergency medication administered. The competent member of staff, in company with a second adult, will administer the medication. Initially __ milligrams of (add in name of drug) _____ will be administered **rectally/by drops into the mouth**. In the event there are difficulties administering the medication, e.g. diarrhoea, call an ambulance. If the **fit/seizures** continue a second dose of __ milligrams of (add in name of drug) _____ are to be administered. If the **fit/seizures** continue for __ minutes call an ambulance and notify family contact.

e) Daily Care Requirements – In the case of Epilepsy this section will usually be left blank. This is because only emergency medication will normally be required.

f) Competence – Staff who volunteer to administer the emergency medication must have received training from an approved source. This will involve information on the specific type of epilepsy, the possible triggers and instruction/demonstration on administering the medication.

For additional information see British Epilepsy Association website www.epilepsy.org.uk

3 - DIABETES

a) What is diabetes? Diabetes is a condition in which the amount of glucose (sugar) in the blood is too high because the body cannot use it properly. This is either due to the lack of insulin (Type 1 diabetes) or because there is insufficient insulin for the child's needs or the insulin is not working properly (Type 2 diabetes). Insulin is a hormone that helps the glucose to enter the cells where it is used as fuel by the body. Diabetes affects about one in 550 children and the majority will have Type 1 diabetes.

b) What are the symptoms? Where the condition is not managed effectively children can suffer a hypoglycaemic reaction (hypo). The following symptoms, either individually or combined, may be indicators of a hypo in a pupil with diabetes: hunger, sweating, drowsiness, pallor, glazed eyes, shaking, lack of concentration or irritability.

NB Greater than usual need to go to the toilet or to drink, tiredness and weight loss may indicate poor diabetic control. If any such symptoms are noted these should be brought to the attention of the parent/carer.

c) What medication is used? Insulin is used to control the condition and children at a very early age are able to manage the condition.

d) Emergency Arrangements – The information in the Health Care Plan under this heading will normally indicate the following or similar:

Should (name of pupil/student) suffer an hypo, which will normally involve ***him/her appearing drowsy/starting to shake/becoming irritable/_____***, ***he she should be given the opportunity/encouraged to take a glucose tablet/sugary drink/_____***. The hypo should pass within (usually 10 - 15 minutes) _____ and if it persists past this time call an ambulance and notify the family contact.

If the pupil recovers within ___ minutes ***he/she*** should be encouraged to consume a slow acting starchy food, e.g. glass of milk.

e) Daily Care Requirements – The information in the Health Care Plan under this heading will normally indicate the following or similar:

(Name of pupil/student) will need to be reminded to check ***his/her*** blood glucose levels at ***lunchtime/breaktimes/(Specify period)_____***. The pupil/student will need ***no assistance/help*** with the test kit but is to use the kit in ***(indicate room or space.)_____***, so that he/she is not likely to be disturbed by other pupils/students.

f) Competence – All staff are able to assist in reminding pupils/students to use or to supervise them using the test kit. The use of the test kit will be demonstrated to staff by parent/care/school nurse as appropriate.

For additional information see Diabetes UK website www.diabetes.org.uk

4 - ANAPHYLAXIS

a) What is anaphylaxis? Anaphylaxis is an extreme allergic reaction caused by the body's immune system reacting to a substance it perceives as a threat. The reaction can occur very quickly and can be life threatening. Although no figures have yet been provided for the number of pupils/students who currently suffer from anaphylaxis a study on the Isle of Wight indicated 1 child in 70 as likely to be allergic to peanuts, tree nuts or both.

The most common cause of anaphylaxis is food, e.g. legumes (nuts), fish, dairy products but also penicillin, latex and stinging insects can cause allergic reactions. In its most severe form the condition can be life-threatening.

b) What are the symptoms? Symptoms and signs will normally appear within seconds or minutes after exposure to the allergen. These may include swelling of the face, throat, tongue and lips, difficulty in swallowing, flushed complexion, abdominal cramps and nausea, a rise in heart rate, collapse or unconsciousness, wheezing or difficulty breathing

c) What medication is used? There is no preventative medication but where an anaphylaxis reaction occurs then there will usually be a need to administer adrenaline. This will normally be by use of a pre loaded-injection cartridge, often referred to as an EPI PEN. (This is because adrenaline is also known as epinephrine.)

For some children, the timing of the injection may be crucial. This needs to be clear in the Health Care Plan and suitable procedures put in place so that swift action can be taken in an emergency.

d) Emergency Arrangements – The information in the Health Care Plan under this heading will normally indicate the following or similar:

Should (name of Pupil) ***have/thought to have consumed*** any food product containing ***legumes/_____ and/or exhibits/indicates*** the following symptoms, ***wheeziness/difficulty breathing/ abdominal cramps/_____*** ***he/she*** will be given the EPI-PEN adrenaline auto injection into the fleshy part of the thigh. An ambulance will also be called and the family contact notified.

e) Daily care requirements – These need to be discussed carefully and where triggers have been identified a whole school approach to controlling or eliminating them is recommended.

f) Competence – Staff who volunteer to administer the emergency medication must have received training from an approved source. The training will cover information on the cause of the allergic reaction and instruction/demonstration/practice on administering the medication, i.e. using the EPI-PEN. The use of the EPI-PEN is quite simple but staff usually like refresher training from time to time as the EPI-PEN is rarely used.

Training can be provided by GP/Consultant/School Nurse/First Aid provider.

For additional information on anaphylaxis and other allergies see the Allergy in Schools website www.allergyinschools.org.uk

Monitoring and review

This Policy and Procedures document was approved by the Finance, Premises and Safety Committee. It will be reviewed every other year or sooner if the need arises or updated guidance produced by the DFE.

Parental agreement for setting to administer medicine



The school will not give your child medicine unless you complete and sign this form.

Date for review to be initiated by

Name of school

Name of child

Date of birth

Class

Medical condition or illness

<i>Hatherley Infant School</i>

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 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 staff administering medicine in accordance with the school policy. I will inform the school immediately, in writing, if there is any change in dosage or frequency of the medication or if the medicine is stopped.

Parent Signature(s) _____ Date _____

CONSENT FORM: Use of emergency salbutamol inhaler



Hatherley Infant School

Name of Child

--

Class

--

Child showing symptoms of asthma / having asthma attack

1. I can confirm that my child has been diagnosed with asthma / has been prescribed an inhaler

[delete as appropriate].
2. My child has a working, in-date inhaler, clearly labelled with their name, which they will bring with them to school every day.
3. In the event of my child displaying symptoms of asthma, and if their inhaler is not available or is unusable, I consent for my child to receive salbutamol from an emergency inhaler held by the school for such emergencies.

Signed:

Date:

Parent Contact Details

Name

--

Daytime telephone no.

--

Relationship to child

--

Address

--



Use of emergency salbutamol inhaler report slip

Name of Child	
Class	
Date	
Staff Name	

This letter is to formally notify you that your child has had problems with their breathing today.

This happened when _____

_____.

	A member of staff helped them to use their asthma inhaler.
	They did not have their own asthma inhaler with them, so a member of staff helped them to use the emergency asthma inhaler containing salbutamol. They were given puffs.
	Their own asthma inhaler was not working, so a member of staff helped them to use the emergency asthma inhaler containing salbutamol. They were given puffs. .

Although they soon felt better, we would strongly advise that you have your child seen by your own doctor as soon as possible.

Use of emergency salbutamol inhaler report slip

Name of Child	
Class	
Date	
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Although they soon felt better, we would strongly advise that you have your child seen by your own doctor as soon as possible.

Record of medicine administered to an individual child



Name of school/setting
 Name of child
 Date medicine provided by parent
 Group/class/form
 Quantity received
 Name and strength of medicine
 Expiry date
 Quantity returned
 Dose and frequency of medicine

Hatherley Infant School

Signatures	
Staff	Parent

Date			
Time given			
Dose given			
Name of member of staff			
Staff initials			

Date			
Time given			
Dose given			
Name of member of staff			
Staff initials			

Date			
Time given			
Dose given			
Name of member of staff			
Staff initials			