



**ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
A Community where we Live Learn and Laugh Together in God's Love

## **MEDICAL POLICY**

### **1. This school is an inclusive community that aims to support and welcome pupils with medical conditions.**

- St Mary's School understands that it has a responsibility to make the school welcoming and supportive to pupils with medical conditions
- St Mary's school aims to provide all children with all medical conditions the same opportunities as others at school. We will help to ensure they can:
  - Be healthy
  - Stay safe
  - Enjoy and achieve
  - Make a positive contribution
  - Achieve economic well-being
- We work with parents and children with medical conditions to take control of their condition appropriate to their age and capabilities.
- We aim to give pupils confidence in the support they receive from the school.
- We aim to include all pupils with medical conditions in all school activities.
- We ensure all staff understand their duty of care to children and young people in the event of an emergency.
- We aim to ensure that all staff feel confident in knowing what to do in an emergency.
- We understand that certain medical conditions are serious and can be potentially life-threatening, particularly if ill managed or misunderstood.

### **2. The medical conditions policy is supported by a clear communication plan for staff, parents and students to ensure its full implementation**

Parents of children with medical needs are informed about the medical conditions policy:

- At the start of the school year when communication is sent out about healthcare plans
- In the school newsletter at intervals in the school year
- When their child is enrolled as a new pupil
- Via the school's website, where it is available all year round

School staff are informed and reminded about the medical policy as necessary.

### **3. First Aid trained staff understand and are trained in what to do in an emergency for the most common serious medical conditions at this school**

Our Lead First Aider is Karen Anderson. She is supported by three other first aid trained staff.

First Aid trained staff are aware of the most common serious medical conditions at this school

Staff at St Mary's School understand their duty of care to pupils in the event of an emergency.

In an emergency situation school staff are required under common law duty of care to act like any reasonably prudent parent. This may include administering medication such as epipens, insulin or asthma inhalers and to operate equipment such as our on-site defibrillator

First Aid trained and PE staff who work with groups of pupils at this school know what to do in an emergency for the pupils in their care with medical conditions.

Training is refreshed for first aiders before their qualifications expire.

Action for staff to take in an emergency for asthma/epilepsy/anaphylaxis and diabetes is displayed in the staff room and medical room.

#### **4. All staff understand the school's general emergency procedures**

All staff know what action to take in the event of a medical emergency. This includes:

- How to contact emergency services and what information to give
- Actions to take in a general medical emergency is displayed in prominent locations for staff, the staff room, PE department and food preparation rooms.

If a pupil needs to be taken to hospital, a member of staff will accompany them if parents are unavailable or school will ask parents to meet a member of staff or ambulance at casualty.

#### **5. The school has clear guidance on the administration of medication at school**

##### **Administration-emergency medication**

All pupils at this school with medical conditions have easy access to their emergency medication.

All pupils are encouraged to carry their emergency medication i.e inhalers, epipens and insulin with a spare being kept in the medical room cabinet.

Pupils who do not carry and administer their own emergency medication know where their medication is stored and how to access it.

##### **Administration-general**

All use of medication defined as a controlled drug, even if the pupil can administer the medication themselves, is done under the supervision of the school first aider.

St Mary's School understands the importance of medication being taken as prescribed.

All staff are aware that there is no legal or contractual duty for any member of staff to administer medication or supervise a pupil taking medication unless they have been specifically contracted to do so.

The school first aiders are able to administer medication.

The staff/first aiders are happy to take on the voluntary role of administering medication.

For medication where no specific training is necessary, any member of staff may administer prescribed medication to pupils under the age of 16, but only with the written consent of the pupil's parent.

Training is given to all staff members who agree to administer medication to pupils, where specific training is needed. The local authority provides full indemnity.

Parents at St Mary's School understand that if their child's medication changes or is discontinued, or the dose or administration method changes, that they should notify the school immediately.

All staff attending off-site visits are aware of any pupils with medical conditions on the visit. They receive information about the type of condition, what to do in an emergency and any other additional support necessary, including any additional medication or equipment needed.

#### **6. St Mary's School has clear guidance on the storage of medication at school**

##### **Safe storage – emergency medication (epipens)**

Emergency medication is readily available to pupils who require it at all times in their classrooms or from the first aider during the school day.

If the emergency medication is a controlled drug and needs to be locked up, the keys are readily available in the key box in the Medical room and with the school first aider.

Spare epipens are kept in the school medical room.

Students are reminded to carry their emergency medication with them.

### **Safe storage – non emergency medication**

All non-emergency medication is kept in a lockable cupboard in the school medical room. Pupils with medical conditions know where their medication is stored and how to access it. This is usually in their own classroom in the teacher's desk.

Staff ensure that medication is only accessible to those for whom it is prescribed.

### **Administration – Prescribed medicines such as antibiotics**

Parents should be aware that school staff are not able to supervise the administration of medicines where the prescription requires 3 doses within a 24 hour period. This is because it is perfectly possible to give a child the doses in the following way – Dose 1..... with breakfast. Dose 2..... With the evening snack or meal after school. Dose 3..... With a biscuit as the child goes to bed.

We will try to help, where the dosage frequency has to be 4 times in a 24 hour period and of course we are able to help (if given professional advice and training) with the medical support of children with complex needs such as diabetes, asthma, ADHD etc.

### **Safe storage – general**

The school lead first aider (Karen Anderson) ensures the correct storage of medication at school

Three times a year the school first aider checks the expiry dates for all medication stored at school

The school first aider along with the parents of pupils with medical conditions, ensures that all emergency and non-emergency medication brought into school is clearly labelled with the pupils name, the name and dose of medication and the frequency of dose. This includes all medication that pupils carry themselves.

Some medication at St Mary's School may need to be refrigerated. All refrigerated medication is stored in an airtight container and is clearly labelled in medical room fridge. This is in a secure area, inaccessible to unsupervised pupils.

It is the parent's responsibility to ensure new and in date medication comes into school on the first day of the new academic year.

The lead first aider will ensure that staff with responsibilities to teach and care for children who may need medication are fully aware of their needs.

### **Safe disposal**

Parents are asked to collect out of date medication.

If parents do not collect out of date medication, medication is taken to a local pharmacy for safe disposal.

The school first aider is responsible for checking the dates of medication and arranging for the disposal of any that have expired. This check is done at least three times a year.

## **7. St Mary's School has clear guidance about record keeping Enrolment forms**

Parents at St Mary's School are asked if their child has any health conditions on the enrolment form, which is filled out at the start of each school year.

Parents of new pupils starting at other times during the year are also asked to provide this information on enrolment forms.

### **Healthcare Plans**

St Mary's School uses a healthcare plan to record important details about individual children's medical needs at school, their triggers, signs, symptoms, medication and other treatments. These healthcare plans are held in the school medical room cabinet.

A healthcare plan, accompanied by an explanation of why and how it is used, is sent to all parents of pupils with a long term medical condition. This is sent :

- At the start of the school year
- At enrolment
- When a diagnosis is first communicated to the school

If a pupil has a short-term medical condition that requires medication during school hours, a medication form plus explanation is sent home for completion.

Parents are regularly reminded to inform the school and first aider if their child has a medical emergency or if there have been changes to their symptoms, or their medication and treatments change. This is to ensure the healthcare plans can be updated accordingly.

### **School Medical register**

Healthcare plans are used to create a centralised register of pupils with medical needs. The school first aider has responsibility for the register at St Mary's School.

**8. St Mary's School ensures that the whole school environment is inclusive and favourable to pupils with medical conditions. This includes the physical environment, as well as social, sporting and educational activities.**

### **Physical environment**

This school is committed to providing a physical environment that is accessible to pupils with medical conditions.

### **Exercise and physical activity**

This school understands the importance of all pupils taking part in sports, games and activities.

St Mary's School ensures teachers and PE staff make appropriate adjustments to sports, games and other activities to make physical activity accessible to all pupils.

Teachers and PE staff are aware of pupils in their care who have been advised to avoid or take special precautions with particular activities.

St Mary's School ensure PE staff are aware of the potential triggers for pupils' medical conditions when exercising and how to minimise these triggers.

### **Education and learning**

St Mary's School ensures that pupils with medical conditions can participate fully in all aspects of the curriculum and ensures appropriate adjustments and extra support are provided.

Staff are aware of the potential for pupils with medical conditions to have special educational needs (SEN).

Pupils with medical conditions who are finding it difficult to keep up with their studies are referred to the SEN coordinator.

The school's SEN coordinator consults the pupil, parents and pupil's healthcare professional to ensure the effect of the pupil's condition on their schoolwork is properly considered.

**9. Each member of the school and health community knows their roles and responsibilities in maintaining an effective medical conditions policy**

This school works in partnership with all interested and relevant parties including all school staff, parents, employers and community healthcare professionals to ensure the policy is planned, implemented and maintained successfully.

The following roles and responsibilities are used for the medical policy at this school.

These roles are understood and communicated regularly.

### **Employer**

St Mary's school's employer has a responsibility to:

- Ensure the health and safety of their employees and anyone else on the premises or taking part in school activities ( this includes all pupils).
- This responsibility extends to those staff and others leading activities taking place off-site, such as visits, outings or trips.
- Make sure the medical policy is effectively monitored and evaluated and regularly updated.
- Provide indemnity to staff who volunteer to administer medication to pupils with medical conditions.

### **Headteacher**

Our headteacher has a responsibility to:

- Ensure the school is inclusive and welcoming and that the medical conditions policy is in line with local and national guidance and policy frameworks.
- Liaise between interested parties including pupils, school staff, special educational needs coordinators, pastoral support/welfare officers, teaching assistants, school nurses, parents and governors.
- Ensure the policy is put into action, with good communication of the policy to all.
- Ensure every aspect of the policy is maintained.
- Ensure information held by the school is accurate and up to date and that there are good information sharing systems in place using pupil's healthcare plans.
- Ensure pupil confidentiality.
- Assess the training and development needs of staff and arrange for them to be met.
- Ensure all supply staff and new teachers know the medical conditions policy.
- Update the medical policy at least once a year according to review recommendations and recent local and national guidance and legislation.

### **All school staff**

All staff at St Mary's School have a responsibility to :

Be aware of the potential triggers, signs and symptoms of common medical conditions and know what to do in an emergency.

- Understand the medical policy.
- Know which students in their care have a medical condition.
- Allow all students to have immediate access to their emergency medication.
- Maintain effective communication with parents including informing them if their child has been unwell at school.
- Ensure pupils who carry their medication with them have it when they go on a school visit or out of the classroom.
- Be aware of pupils with medical conditions who may be experiencing bullying or need extra social support.
- Ensure all pupils with medical conditions are not excluded unnecessarily from activities they wish to take part in.
- Ensure pupils have the appropriate medication or food with them during any exercise and are allowed to take it when needed.

### **Teaching staff**

Teachers at this school have a responsibility to:

- Ensure students who have been unwell catch up on missed school work.
- Be aware that medical conditions can affect a pupil's learning and provide extra help when pupils need it.
- Liaise with parents, the pupil's healthcare professional and special educational needs coordinator if a student is falling behind with their work because of their condition.

### **Lead First Aider**

The lead first aider (Karen Anderson) has a responsibility to

- Update the schools medical conditions policy.
- Provide regular training for school staff in managing the most common medical conditions in school.
- Provide information about where the school can access other specialist training.
- Ensure healthcare plans are completed and reviewed annually.
- Check medication held in school annually for expiry dates and dispose of accordingly
- Administer medication to students as prescribed.

### **Other First Aiders**

First aiders at this school have a responsibility to:

- Give immediate help to casualties with common injuries or illnesses and those arising from specific hazards within the school.
- When necessary ensure that an ambulance or other professional medical help is called.

### **Special educational needs & disability coordinator**

SEND (Ruth Dyson) at this school has a responsibility to:

- Help update the school's medical condition policy.
- Know which pupils have a medical condition and which have special educational needs because of their condition.
- Ensure teachers make the necessary arrangements if a pupil needs special consideration or access arrangements in exams or coursework.

### **Local doctors and specialist healthcare professionals**

Individual doctors and specialist healthcare professionals caring for students who attend this school, have a responsibility to:

- Where possible, and without compromising the best interests of the child, try to prescribe medication that can be taken outside of school hours.
- Ensure the child or young person knows how to take their medication effectively.
- Ensure children and young people have regular reviews of their condition and their medication.
- Provide the school with information and advice regarding individual children and young people with medical conditions (with the consent of the pupil and their parents).

### **Pupils**

The pupils at this school have a responsibility to:

- Treat other students with and without a medical condition equally.
- Tell their parents, teacher or nearest staff member when they are not feeling well.
- Let a member of staff know if another pupil is feeling unwell.
- Treat all medication with respect.
- Know how to gain access to their medication in an emergency.
- Ensure a member of staff is called in an emergency situation.
- 

### **Parents/Carers**

The parents of a pupil at this school have a responsibility to:

- Tell the school if their child has a medical condition.
- Ensure the school has a complete and up-to-date Healthcare plan for their child.
- Inform the school about the medication their child requires while taking part in visits, outings or field trips and other out-of-school activities.

- Tell the school about any changes to their child's medication, what they take, when and how much.
- Inform the school of any changes to their child's condition.
- Ensure their child's medication and medical devices are labelled with their child's full name.
- Provide the school with appropriate spare medication labelled with their child's name.
- Ensure medication is within expiry dates.
- Keep child at home if they are not well enough to attend school.
- Ensure their child catches up on any school work they have missed.
- Ensure their child has regular reviews about their condition with their doctor or specialist healthcare professional.

Updated March 2019.      Review September 2020.