

CHESLYN HAY SPORT AND COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

GOVERNORS POLICY

Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions

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.

Introduction

Local Authorities 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 Local Authority which encourages self-administration of medication when possible and the DfE "Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions April 2014" which requires governors to ensure that pupils in school with medical conditions should be properly supported so that they have full access to education including school trips and physical education.

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 Medicines in Schools (to be updated September 2014)
- 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 during the school day. The name of the pharmacist should be visible. Any medications not presented properly will not be accepted by school staff. Pupils should not bring in their own medicine. This should be brought into school by the parent.
- 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.

Key responsibilities

- The SENCO (EBE) is responsible for ensuring that sufficient staff are suitably trained,
- The SENCO (EBE) will ensure that all relevant staff will be made aware of the child's condition
- The SENCO (EBE) will arrange cover arrangements in case of staff absence or staff turnover to ensure someone is always available
- The Cover Manager (BD) will undertake briefing for supply teachers
- The Assistant Head teacher (DWI) will ensure that risk assessments for school visits, holidays, and other school activities outside of the normal timetable are completed
- Reception (HP) will undertake monitoring of individual healthcare plans and forward information to the SENCO

Records

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

Policy into practice

In order to sufficiently meet their statutory responsibilities governors have approved procedures to be followed which are attached as appendix A and also incorporates the administration of first aid in school.

Lead SLT member: PGR

Date of next review: summer term 2018

Reference: Medical Conditions including First Aid PGR 08 17