



Medical Needs Policy (Thorpe Hesley Primary School)

Policy updated: March 2023

To be reviewed: two yearly

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

School Ethos

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 so that they can access their full and equal entitlement to all aspects of the curriculum. In this case, individual procedures may be required. Thorpe Hesley Primary School is responsible for making sure that relevant staff know about and are, if necessary, trained to provide any additional support that pupils with medical conditions (long or short term) may need.

The Children and Families Act 2014 places a duty on schools to make arrangements for children with medical conditions. **Pupils with medical conditions 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 must ensure the safety of all pupils in their care. To this end, we reserve the right to refuse admittance to a child with an infectious disease, where there may be a risk posed to others or to the health of the child involved. This duty also extends to teachers leading activities taking place off the school site.

The prime responsibility for a child's health lies with the parent, who is responsible for the child's medication and must supply the school with all relevant information needed in order for proficient care to be given to the child. The school takes advice and guidance from a range of sources, including the School Nurse, Health professionals and the child's GP in addition to the information provided by parents in the first instance. This enables us to ensure we assess and manage risk and minimise disruption to the learning of the child and others who may be affected (for example, class mates).





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Our Aims

- To support pupils with medical conditions, so that they have full access to education, including physical education and educational visits
- To ensure that school staff involved in the care of children with medical needs are fully informed and adequately trained by a professional in order to administer support or prescribed medication
- To comply fully with the Equality Act 2010 for pupils who may have disabilities or special educational needs.
- To write, in association with healthcare professionals, Individual Healthcare Plans where necessary
- To respond sensitively, discreetly and quickly to situations where a child with a medical condition requires support
- To keep, monitor and review appropriate records

Unacceptable Practice

While school staff will use their professional discretion in supporting individual pupils, it is unacceptable to:

- Prevent children from accessing their medication
- Assume every child with the same condition requires the same treatment
- Ignore the views of the child or their parents / carers; ignore medical advice
- Prevent children with medical conditions accessing the full curriculum, unless specified in their Individual Healthcare plan
- Penalise children for their attendance record where this is related to a medical condition
- Prevent children from eating, drinking or taking toilet breaks where this is part of effective management of their condition
- Require parents to administer medicine where this interrupts their working day
- Require parents to accompany their child with a medical condition on a school trip as a condition of that child taking part

Entitlement

Thorpe Hesley Primary School provides full access to the curriculum for every child wherever possible. We believe that pupils with medical needs have equal entitlement and must receive necessary care and support so that they can take advantage of this. However, we also recognise that employees have rights in relation to supporting pupils with medical needs, as follows:

Employees may:

- Choose whether or not they wish to be involved
- Receive appropriate training
- Work to clear guidelines
- Bring to the attention of Senior Leadership any concern or matter relating to the support of pupils with medical conditions





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Expectations

It is expected that:

- Parents will inform school of any medical condition which affects their child.
- Parents will supply school with appropriately prescribed medication, where the dosage information and regime is clearly printed by a pharmacy on the container
- Parents will ensure that medicines to be given in school are in date and clearly labelled.
- Parents will check dates on medication in school such as inhalers, epi-pens and any other medical items regularly and replace as needed.
- Parents will co-operate in training their children to self-administer medicine if this is appropriate, and that staff members will only be involved if this is not possible
- Medical professionals involved in the care of children with medical needs will fully inform staff beforehand of the child's condition, its management and implications for the school life of that individual
- Thorpe Hesley Primary School will ensure that, where appropriate, children are involved in discussing the management and administration of their medicines and are able to access and administer their medicine if this is part of their Individual Healthcare plan (for example, an inhaler)
- School staff will liaise as necessary with Healthcare professionals and services in order to access the most up-to-date advice about a pupil's medical needs and will seek support and training in the interests of the pupil
- Transitional arrangements between schools will be completed in such a way that Thorpe Hesley Primary School will ensure full disclosure of relevant medical information, Healthcare plans and support needed in good time for the child's receiving school to adequately prepare
- Individual Healthcare plans will be written, monitored and reviewed annually unless any changes are required and will include the views and wishes of the child and parent in addition to the advice of relevant medical professionals

Procedure

The Governing Body of Thorpe Hesley Primary School ensures that an appropriate level of insurance is in place and reflects the level of risk presented by children with medical conditions.

Information

Children with serious medical conditions will have their photo and brief description of condition, along with any other necessary information, in the staffroom and on fobs issued to all staff including SMSAs. Children with medical conditions which may require emergency attention, e.g. epilepsy, diabetes, will have their names and an Individual Healthcare Plan clearly accessible in the office and are available to staff, all adults dealing with the child will have their attention drawn to this information. All other medical





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conditions will be noted from children's SIMs records and this information will be provided to class teachers annually.

In an emergency

In a medical emergency, teachers have been appropriately trained to administer emergency paediatric first aid if necessary. If possible, the school's First Aiders, the Office Staff, will be asked to attend although almost all staff are trained First Aiders. If an ambulance needs to be called, staff will:

- Outline the full condition and how it occurred
- Give details regarding the child's date of birth, address, parents' names and any known medical conditions.

Children will be accompanied to hospital by a member of staff if this is deemed appropriate. Staff cars should not be used for this purpose. Parents must always be called in a medical emergency, but do not need to be present for a child to be taken to hospital.

Administration of medicines

Only essential medicines will be administered in exceptional circumstances during the school day. If a child is severely unwell they should not be in school. Only those prescribed by a doctor or listed on the NHS Self Care leaflet will be administered (should school decide it is appropriate), this is limited to medication prescribed in excess of 3 times per day or that state a specific time e.g. lunchtime.

Children will NOT be allowed to keep any form of medication with them in school including cough sweets or throat lozenges. These must be handed into the office to be administered there. Parents must submit a written permission slip before any medicine is administered, including those not prescribed by a doctor. Any medicines to be given during the school day must be in their original container. Controlled drugs can also be administered, subject to all other conditions as described in the Policy.

Essential medicines will be administered on Educational Visits, subject to the conditions above. A risk assessment may be needed before the visit takes place. Staff supervising the visit will be responsible for safe storage and administration of the medicine during the visit.

All staff with the relevant first aid training can administer medicines. Before administering any medicine, staff must check that the medicine belongs to the child, must check that the dosage they are giving is correct, and that written permission has been given. Any child refusing to take medicine in school will not be made to do so, and parents will be informed about the dose being missed. All doses administered will be recorded. All medicines will be stored safely. Medicines needing refrigeration will be stored in the Foundation Unit fridge for FS and office for KS1 or KS2 fridge. All medicines must be clearly labelled. Controlled drugs or prescribed medicines will be kept in the cupboard in the office. Access to these medicines is restricted to the named persons. Epi-pens are kept in a cupboard in the office of the relevant Infant or Junior Building.





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Staff will record any doses of medicines given on the Medicine sheets. Inhalers are kept in the classrooms in a safe place and are administered under the supervision of an adult. Children have access to these inhalers at all times, though must inform a member of staff that they are taking a dose. All inhalers are marked with the child's name. All children with an inhaler must take them on educational visits, however short in duration.

Epi-pen – All staff who are First Aid trained are trained to administer an epi-pen and any member of staff can administer in an emergency. However, there are also staff in school who have attended Epi-Pen training in addition to First Aid.

The pen (cap off) should be pushed against the child's thigh, through clothing if necessary. The pen should be held for a count of 10 seconds before being withdrawn. Ambulances must be called for a child who may require an epi-pen. If symptoms are more severe, the epi-pen should be given immediately. An ambulance must be called immediately. Parents should be contacted after this call has been made.

Complaints

Should parents be unhappy with any aspect of their child's care at Thorpe Hesley Primary School, they must discuss their concerns with the school. This will be with the child's class teacher in the first instance, with whom any issues should be managed. If this does not resolve the problem or allay concern, the problem should be brought to a member of the leadership team, who will, where necessary, bring concerns to the attention of the Headteacher. In the unlikely event of this not resolving the issue, the parents must make a formal complaint using the Thorpe Hesley Primary School Complaints Procedure.

Training – Staff received relevant training in school from healthcare professionals where required and follow Individual Care Plans provided for children such as diabetes, epilepsy and other medical conditions. First aid training is updated every three years (see below).

School First Aiders: the vast majority of staff in school have completed the Emergency First Aid Training certificate in September 2022 (valid for 3 years). Additional training will be delivered for any new staff members.

Paediatric First Aid:

The following staff have completed Paediatric First Aid (valid for 3 years) in February 2023:

Louise Bailey, Caroline Cole, Gemma Booth, Adele Marriott, Rachel Bamford, Michelle West, Olivia Varley, Jill Marshall, Hayley Smalley, Claire Taylor and Lynn Parks.

Templates for use with supporting pupils with medical conditions

See additional pdf doc from DfE



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