

Ellesmere Port Catholic High School

Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions policy

Status

Statutory

Purpose

Ellesmere Port Catholic High School wishes to ensure that all pupils with medical conditions receive appropriate care and support at school. This policy has been developed in line with the Department for Education's guidance "Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions".

Ofsted places a clear emphasis on meeting the needs of pupils with SEN and Disabilities and this includes children with medical conditions.

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. Ellesmere Port Catholic High 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).

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 pupils 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 ensure, in association with healthcare professionals, that pupils with medical conditions have Individual Healthcare Plans where necessary.
- To respond sensitively, discreetly and quickly to situations where a pupil 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 pupils 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 pupils with medical conditions accessing the full curriculum, unless specified in their Individual Healthcare plan
- Penalise pupils for their attendance record where this is related to a medical condition
- Prevent pupils 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

Ellesmere Port Catholic High 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:

- 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

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 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
- Ellesmere Port Catholic High School will ensure that, where appropriate, pupils 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 Ellesmere Port Catholic High 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 obtained where required and will include the views and wishes of the child and parent in addition to the advice of relevant medical professionals

Information

Pupils with serious medical conditions will have their photo and brief description of condition, along with any other necessary **information documented in a medical profile** available to staff. Pupils with medical conditions which may require emergency attention, e.g. epilepsy, diabetes, will have an Individual Healthcare Plan clearly accessible in Student Services, and all first aiders and staff dealing with the child will have their attention drawn to this information. All medical conditions will be noted on the student's SIMS records and this information will be provided on the annual AEN register on the Staff drive which is accessible by all staff.

In an emergency

In a medical emergency, teachers will summon for first aid assistance by one of the qualified First Aiders.

If an ambulance needs to be called, First Aid 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
- Parents will be immediately contacted to accompany the child to hospital. Children will be accompanied to hospital by a member of staff if this is deemed appropriate until parents can attend.

Administration of medicines

Parents must submit written permission before pupils can take medication in school. Medicines taken during the school day must be in their original container.

Pupils' may take prescribed medication 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.

Pupils who need to take medication should hand it in to Student Services at the start of the school day. Pupils should come to Student Services to take the medication as required. Before handing over the medication Student Services staff must check that the medicine belongs to the pupil and check that written permission has been given. Medication taken will be recorded on the Administration of Medicines record sheet for the individual pupil located in Student Services.

