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St Mary's

Church of England Primary School

MEDICAL NEEDS POLICY

VISION

For children to be excited about their learning, proud of all their achievements, determined to be the best they can be, aware of the world around them, inspired by gospel values.

MISSION

- Through excellent teaching we will deliver an inspirational curriculum
- We will enable every child to make the very best progress
- We will work in partnership with children and families to further promote confidence and self esteem
- We will prepare children to confidently face the challenges of growing up in the 21st Century
- We will provide children with an understanding of local, national and global communities and faiths.
- With St Mary's Church, Brookside Methodist, and other local churches, we will further develop understanding of gospel values in action through worship and across the curriculum

Safeguarding Statement of Intent

St Mary's Church of England Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Every pupil should be able to participate in all school activities in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from harm. This is the responsibility of every adult employed by or invited to deliver services at to the school. We recognise our responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all our pupils by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional abuse, neglect and bullying

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 (deemed special medical needs).

Rationale:

LAs 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, 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 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.

Aims

The school aims to:

- assist parents in providing medical care for their children;
- educate staff and (where appropriate) children in respect of special medical needs;
- adopt and implement the Local Authority policy;
- 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 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:

- 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 possible 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 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.
- 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 Nursing 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.

Individual Health Care Plans

Where a medical condition fluctuates or where there is a high risk that emergency intervention will be needed, especially where medical conditions are long-term and complex, the Headteacher, health professional and parent, may agree that an Individual Health Care Plan would be appropriate. However, not all children require Health Care Plans, for instance, children who suffer with Asthma would not normally require an Individual Plan.

The plan is normally created by the School Nurse, and should not be a burden on school, but should capture the key information and actions that are required to support the child effectively. The level of detail required in the plan will depend on the complexity of the child's condition and the degree of support needed. This is important as children who may have the same condition may require very different support. Where a child has SEN but not an EHC plan, their special educational needs should be mentioned in their Health Care Plan. There should be a clear timescale for the plan, or a date when the plan will need to be reviewed, this will be at least annually or earlier if evidence is presented that the child's needs have changed. Only the school nurse can make amendments to the Health Care Plan, having been satisfied that the changes are necessary to ensure that the child continues to be supported appropriately. The Health Care Plan is securely stored, and in accordance with data protection, the staff who need to know about the child will be informed of the Care Plan. The Health Care Plan should include;

- The medical condition, its triggers, signs, symptoms and treatments.
- The pupil's resulting needs; dose of medication and possible recovery/change of symptoms times.
- The level of support needed, particularly if a child is self-managing their medication
- What to do in an emergency, whom to contact and contingency arrangements.

Staff Training

The Governing Body recognise the need for staff to be appropriately trained in order to give parents and pupils the confidence that school can provide effective support for medical conditions in school. Currently, relevant staff are trained in:

- Basic First Aid
- First Aid At Work
- Paediatric First Aid
- Safer Handling (Lifting and pushing wheelchairs)
- Diabetes Care

Annually, relevant staff have updates on:

- Asthma
- Epi-pens
- Epilepsy

School Visits Offsite and Residential Visits

When preparing to take children offsite, staff must consider the needs of any child with a disability or medical condition. They must determine what reasonable adjustments must be made to ensure that the child can safely take part in the visit, including taking a copy of the Care Plan/Emergency procedures with them. Parents must be informed that their child is going off-site and must ensure that staff have up-to-date contact numbers and up-to-date information about their child's condition currently.

Any child with a Health Care Plan must be listed on the Risk Assessment as part of the usual risk assessment procedure. The child's medication must be taken on the visit and the procedure for the safe administration of any medication must be followed. No child will be excluded from a visit on the basis of their medical condition. Control measures will be carefully considered, although on occasion, measures may be beyond what the school is able to provide. In this case, parental help and support may be necessary to ensure the safety of the pupil.

Associated policies: Equalities policy, First Aid Policy, Safeguarding and Child Protection, Health and Safety Policy, Inclusion and Special Educational Needs Policy