Supporting Pupils with Medical Needs in School Policy



Oxlow Bridge School

Approved by: Full Governing Body
Reviewed and evaluated: First Draft
Ratified by Governors: November 2026
Next Review date: November 2027

1. Policy Statement

Oxlow Bridge School is committed to ensuring that all pupils with medical conditions receive appropriate support to enable them to access education safely, fully and successfully.

As a specialist school for pupils with Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD) and complex needs, we recognise that many of our pupils have significant medical, physical, sensory and therapeutic needs. We are committed to working closely with parents, carers, healthcare professionals and the local authority to ensure that every pupil receives the care and support required to access learning and participate in school life.

No pupil will be denied admission or prevented from accessing education because of a medical condition where reasonable arrangements can be made to support them. This policy complies with the statutory duty under Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014 and the Department for Education's statutory guidance, Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions.

2. Aims

The aims of this policy are to:

- Support pupils with medical conditions to achieve their full educational potential.
- Ensure pupils remain safe, healthy and included in all aspects of school life.
- Provide effective support for pupils with short-term and long-term medical needs.
- Ensure staff understand their responsibilities.
- Promote partnership working between home, school and health professionals.
- Ensure appropriate procedures are in place for administering medicines and responding to medical emergencies.
- Minimise disruption to pupils' education due to illness or treatment.

3. Legal Framework

This policy is based on:

- Children and Families Act 2014, Section 100.
- Department for Education statutory guidance: Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

Governing Body

The Governing Body will:

- Monitor implementation of this policy.
- Ensure suitable indemnity arrangements are in place for staff.

Headteacher

The Headteacher will:

- Ensure arrangements are in place to support pupils with medical conditions.

- Ensure sufficient staff receive appropriate training.
- Ensure this policy is implemented effectively.
- Ensure adequate staffing arrangements are in place.
- Ensure Medical Care Plans are implemented and reviewed.
- Ensure medical provision forms part of wider safeguarding arrangements.

School Staff
Staff will:

- Follow Medical Care Plans.
- Participate in training relevant to their role.
- Administer medicines where authorised and trained to do so.
- Respond appropriately to medical emergencies.
- Record administration of medication and medical incidents.
- Maintain confidentiality whilst sharing information on a need-to-know basis.

Parents and Carers
Parents and carers are responsible for:

- Providing accurate and up-to-date medical information.
- Informing school of any changes in medical needs.
- Supplying medication and equipment in appropriately labelled containers.
- Attending review meetings where required.
- Providing emergency contact details.

Healthcare Professionals
Healthcare professionals may:

- Provide specialist advice and training.
- Contribute to Medical Care Plans.
- Support risk assessments and care planning.
- Assist with reviews of medical provision.

5. Medical Care Plans

Most pupils attending Oxlow Bridge School require some form of medical support. For pupils with significant or ongoing medical needs, a Medical Care Plan will be developed with the Specialist School Nursing Team and the parents.

A Medical Care Plan may include:

- Medical diagnosis and needs.
- Signs, symptoms and triggers.
- Medication requirements.
- Enteral feeding arrangements.
- Emergency procedures.

Plans will be reviewed:

- Annually as a minimum.
- Following any significant change in medical needs.
- Following a hospital admission or medical event.
- At transition points.

Further information can be found in our Medication Policy

6. Admission and Attendance

The school will not refuse admission to a pupil solely because they have a medical condition.

Where specialist arrangements are required, the school will work with families and health professionals to ensure appropriate support is in place before admission.

Where a pupil has a medical condition requiring specialist clinical support beyond the scope of education staff, such as tracheostomy care, invasive ventilation support, or deep suctioning, Oxlow Bridge School will work collaboratively with parents/carers, healthcare professionals, the Continuing Care Team and commissioned care providers to facilitate the pupil's access to education wherever possible. In such circumstances, appropriately trained healthcare or care staff may accompany the pupil in school to provide specialist medical interventions throughout the school day. The school is committed to working in partnership with all agencies involved to ensure that pupils with the most complex medical needs can attend school safely, access learning opportunities and participate fully in school life, subject to appropriate risk assessments, care planning and staffing arrangements.

Where a pupil's attendance is affected by medical needs, the school will work collaboratively with families and external agencies to maintain educational engagement wherever possible.

7. Managing Medicines in School

Prescription Medicines

Prescription medicines will only be administered:

- With written parental consent.
- In accordance with the prescriber's instructions.
- By trained and authorised staff.

Non-Prescription Medicines

Non-prescription medicines will only be administered in exceptional circumstances and in accordance with school procedures and parental consent.

Storage of Medicines

The school will:

- Store medicines safely and securely.
- Refrigerate medicines where required.
- Restrict access to authorised personnel only.
- Regularly check expiry dates.

Controlled Drugs

Controlled drugs will be securely stored and administered only by authorised and trained staff.

Record Keeping
The school will maintain records of:

- Medicines received.
- Medicines administered.
- Refusals or omissions (where relevant).
- Medical incidents and emergencies.

Further information can be found in our Medication Policy

8. Emergency Procedures

All staff will know how to respond in an emergency involving a pupil with medical needs.
Emergency arrangements may include:

- Emergency medication.
- Calling emergency services.
- Contacting parents/carers.
- Following procedures detailed in Medical Care Plans.

Emergency contact information and medical care plans will be readily accessible to relevant staff.

Where appropriate, emergency protocols will be displayed discreetly in classrooms and key areas.

9. Specialist Medical Procedures

Many pupils at Oxlow Bridge require specialist interventions that may include:

- Tube feeding.
- Administration of rescue medication.
- Epilepsy management.
- Continence care.
- Moving and handling support.

These procedures will only be undertaken by staff who have received appropriate training and competency sign-off from suitably qualified professionals.

Written protocols and risk assessments will be maintained where appropriate.

10. Staff Training

Given the complexity of pupils' needs, medical training forms a significant part of staff development at Oxlow Bridge.

Training may include:

- Epilepsy awareness and rescue medication.
- Enteral feeding.
- Moving and handling.
- Administration of medication.
- First aid.

- Anaphylaxis awareness.
- Asthma
- Emergency response procedures.

Training records will be maintained and reviewed regularly. turn6search8

11. Educational Visits, Community Activities and Hydrotherapy

Where possible, pupils with medical conditions will be enabled to participate in:

- Educational visits.
- Community learning activities.
- Residential experiences.
- Hydrotherapy sessions.
- Swimming activities.

Reasonable adjustments will be made wherever required.

Risk assessments will take account of:

- Medical needs.
- Medication requirements.
- Equipment needs.
- Staffing levels.
- Emergency arrangements.

Where a pupil is unable to participate in a particular activity for medical reasons, the school will seek to provide alternative learning experiences and opportunities for inclusion wherever possible.

No pupil will be excluded from activities solely because they have a medical condition. Any restrictions will be based on individual clinical needs, medical advice and risk assessment to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the pupil and others.

12. Medical Needs and Safeguarding

Supporting pupils with medical needs is an important safeguarding responsibility.
The school recognises that:

- Unmet medical needs may place a child at risk.
- Medical vulnerability may increase safeguarding risks.
- Frequent absence may be linked to wider concerns.

Where concerns arise, staff will follow the school's safeguarding procedures and consult the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

13. Unacceptable Practice

In accordance with DfE guidance, the school will not:

- Prevent pupils from readily accessing medication when needed.
- Assume every pupil with the same condition requires identical support.
- Ignore medical advice or healthcare plans.
- Send pupils home frequently or unnecessarily because of a medical condition.
- Prevent participation in school activities without evidence-based justification.

- Penalise pupils for absences related to legitimate medical conditions.

14. Complaints

Any concerns regarding support for a pupil's medical needs should initially be discussed with the class teacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team.
Where concerns remain unresolved, parents may follow the school's Complaints Policy.

15. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Headteacher and Governing Body, or sooner if:

- Legislation changes.
- DfE guidance is updated.
- Significant incidents indicate a review is required.

Linked Policies

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Medication Policy
- SEND Policy
- Intimate Care Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Accessibility Plan
- Behaviour Policy
- Attendance Policy

At Oxlow Bridge School, we recognise that effective medical support is fundamental to safeguarding, inclusion, dignity and learning. We are committed to ensuring that every pupil receives the specialist care and support necessary to thrive and achieve their fullest potential.