

SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH MEDICAL CONDITIONS

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SUPPORTING CHILDREN WITH MEDICAL CONDITIONS

This document is written under the guidance of:

Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014, which places a duty on Governing Bodies of maintained Schools, proprietors of academies and management committees of PRUs to make arrangements for supporting students at their school with medical conditions.

Our Aim

Our aim at St Andrew's Academy is to work collaboratively with Local Authorities, Health Professionals, Commissioners and other support services to ensure that students with medical conditions receive a full education. In some cases this will require flexibility and involve, for example, programmes of study that rely on part-time attendance at school in combination with alternative provision arranged by the Local Authority. Consideration will also be given to how children will be reintegrated back into school after periods of absence.

Key Points

- Students at St Andrew's Academy with medical conditions will be properly supported so that they have full access to education, including trips and physical education.
- Our Academy Council will ensure that arrangements are in place in school to support students with medical conditions.
- Our Academy Council will ensure that academy leaders consult Health and Social Care Professionals, students and parents/carers to ensure that the needs of children with medical conditions are properly understood and effectively supported.

Introduction

Our aim is to ensure that all children with medical conditions, in terms of both physical and mental health, are properly supported in school so that they can play a full and active role in academy life, remain healthy and achieve their academic potential.

Parents/carers of children with medical conditions are often concerned that their child's health will deteriorate when they attend school. This is because students with long-term and complex medical conditions may require ongoing support, medicines or care. Whilst at school, trained staff will help them manage their condition and keep them well. St Andrew's Academy has a team of dedicated professionals who can provide advice and guidance. School staff are highly trained in medicine and delivery of First Aid. A number of staff have additional training to support students with specific needs such as epilepsy or diabetes.

In addition to the educational impacts there are social and emotional implications associated with medical conditions. In particular, long-term absences due to health problems affect children's educational attainment, impact on their ability to integrate with their peers and affect their general wellbeing and emotional health. Staff at St Andrew's Academy will support students through the reintegration process.

Short-term and frequent absences, including those for appointments connected with a student's medical condition (which can often be lengthy), also need to be effectively managed and appropriate support will be put in place to limit the impact on the child's educational attainment and emotional and general wellbeing.

Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Code of Practice: The Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice explains the duties of Local Authorities, health bodies, academies and colleges to provide for those with Special Educational Needs under Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014. For students who have medical conditions that require EHCPs, compliance with the SEND Code of Practice will ensure compliance with this guidance with respect to those children.

The Academy Council will ensure that arrangements are in place to support students with medical conditions. In doing so it will ensure that such children can access and enjoy the same opportunities at school as any other child.

Further Advice

Children and young people with medical conditions are entitled to a full education and have the same rights of admission to school as other children. This means that no child with a medical condition can be denied admission or prevented from taking up a place in our academy because arrangements for their medical condition have not been made. However, in line with their safeguarding duties, the Academy Council will ensure that students' health is not put at unnecessary risk from, for example, infectious diseases. We therefore do not have to accept a child into St Andrew's Academy at times where it would be detrimental to the health of that child or others to do so.

Academy Policy

The Principal is responsible for ensuring that sufficient staff are suitably trained.

St Andrew's Academy will ensure all relevant staff will be made aware of the child's condition.

In the case of staff absence, St Andrew's Academy will ensure someone is always available, and all supply staff will be briefed.

Risk Assessments for academy visits, holidays and other academy activities outside the normal timetable will be completed as necessary.

Procedures will be put into place to cover any transitional arrangements between academies, the process to be followed upon reintegration or when students' needs change and arrangements for any staff training or support. For children starting at a new academy, arrangements will be in place in time for the start of the relevant school term. In other cases, such as a new diagnosis or children moving to a new academy mid-term, every effort will be made to ensure that arrangements are put in place within two weeks.

Academies do not have to wait for a formal diagnosis before providing support to students. In cases where a student's medical condition is unclear, or where there is a difference of opinion, judgements will be needed about what support to provide based on the available evidence. This would normally involve some form of medical evidence and consultation with parents/carers. Where evidence conflicts, some degree of challenge may be necessary to ensure that the right support can be put in place.

Individual Care Plans

Individual Care Plans can help to ensure that academies effectively support students with medical conditions. They provide clarity about what needs to be done, when and by whom. They will often be essential, such as in cases where conditions fluctuate or where there is a high risk that emergency intervention will be needed, and are likely to be helpful in the majority of other cases, especially where medical conditions are long-term and complex. Care Plans for relevant conditions will be created in close partnership with parents/carers and reviewed.

Where a child is returning to school following a period of hospital education or alternative provision (including home tuition), academy staff will work with the Local Authority and education provider to ensure that the Individual Care Plan identifies the support the child will need to reintegrate effectively.

Supporting a child with a medical condition during school hours is not the sole responsibility of one person. St Andrew's Academy works in collaboration with other agencies including Health Care professionals (and, where appropriate, Social Care professionals), Local Authorities and parents/carers and students in order to provide the best holistic care.

Parental/Carer Role

Parents/carers should provide the academy with sufficient and up-to-date information about their child's medical needs. They may in some cases be the first to notify the academy that their child has a medical condition. Parents/carers are key partners and will be involved in the development and review of their child's Individual Care Plan.

Parents/carers should carry out any action they have agreed to as part of its implementation, for example, provide medicines and equipment and ensure they or another nominated adult are contactable at all times.

Medicine Administration

At St Andrew's Academy we have staff that are trained to provide support to students with medical conditions, including the administering of medicines.

Staff receive annual training to ensure they are competent before they take on responsibility to support children with medical conditions.

We have staff that are First Aid trained; we also have NHS training for specific medical needs including Epilepsy, Buccal Midazolam administration and Diabetes/Insulin injections.

Health Care professionals, or trained staff, can provide confirmation of the proficiency of school staff in a medical procedure, or in providing medication.

Medicines should only be administered at school when it would be detrimental to a child's health or attendance not to do so.

Prescription medicines will be administered by academy staff when required. Where possible, medicine should be prescribed in dose frequencies which enable them to be taken outside school hours, including antibiotics.

We will only administer medicines if they are in-date, labelled, provided in the original container as dispensed by a pharmacist and include instructions for administration, dosage and storage. The exception to this is insulin, which must still be in-date, but will generally be available to academies inside an insulin pen or a pump, rather than in its original container.

Those students who need inhalers bring them into school in a named container. The container is kept in a safe and accessible place. The student and all staff know where to locate the inhaler if needed. All other specialist medical equipment is kept in the medical room and sits behind two coded doors and at least one locked cabinet.

If a child needs to be taken to hospital, staff will stay with the child until the parent/carers arrives, or accompany a child taken to hospital by ambulance. Information sheets will be made available to Health Care professionals to ensure good information sharing in the best interests of the child.

Defibrillators, for use in sudden cardiac arrest, are available at S Andrew's Academy. All staff receive appropriate training.

Liability and Indemnity

St Andrew's Academy, as part of the Shaw Educational Trust, has an Insurance Policy that provides liability cover relating to the administration of medication.

Any parents/carers of students dissatisfied with the support provided should discuss their concerns directly with the academy. If this cannot be resolved, parents/carers may make a formal complaint via the academy's complaints procedure.

The Principal will have overall responsibility that this policy is implemented and that Risk Assessments for academy visits are undertaken.

Additional Information is Available From:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-for-children-with-health-needs-who-cannot-attendAcademy>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2>

www.education.gov.uk/contactus

www.gov.uk/government/publications

This document is written with guidance from:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-pupils-at-Academy-with-medical-conditions--3>