

St Martins School

Supporting Students with Medical Conditions Policy



Policy Date:	April 2024
Next Review Date:	April 2027 - or sooner should updates be required
Policy Owner:	Senior Leadership Team

St Martins School ensures that students with medical conditions receive appropriate care and support at school, in order for them to have full access to the curriculum. This policy has been developed in line with the DfE's guidance reviewed in September 2014: 'Supporting students at school with medical conditions'.

Ofsted places a clear emphasis on meeting the needs of students with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), including children with medical conditions.

St Martins School is committed to ensuring that parents and carers feel confident that we will provide effective support for their child's medical condition, and make the student feel safe.

The main aims of this policy are:

- To provide individualistic, appropriate support for all students with medical conditions.
- To make reasonable adjustments within school to ensure students with medical conditions are included in daily activities, school trips and sporting events.
- To provide all parents/carers with the confidence that St Martins School will provide effective support for their child and ensure their safety.
- To establish relationships with relevant local health services in the implementation of effective support, as well as valuing the views of parents/carers and students.
- To effectively manage absences caused by medical conditions, to limit the impact on a child's educational attainment.

As all of our students have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP), this policy operates in conjunction with the SEN Code of Practice.

Key roles and responsibilities

The Local Authority is responsible for:

- Promoting cooperation between relevant partners and stakeholders regarding supporting students with medical conditions.
- Working with schools in order to encourage students with medical conditions to attend full-time.
- Providing support, advice and guidance to schools and their staff.
- Making alternative arrangements for the education of students who need to be out of school for 15 days or more due to a medical condition.
- Providing suitable training to school staff in supporting students with medical conditions to ensure that EHCPs can be delivered effectively.

The Academy Council is responsible for:

- Ensuring that the Principal has responsibility for the overall implementation of the Supporting Students with Medical Conditions Policy and procedures at St Martins School.
- Reviewing this policy on an annual basis, and ensuring it does not discriminate on any grounds including, but not limited to: ethnicity/national origin, culture, religion, gender, disability or sexual orientation.
- Handling complaints regarding this policy as outlined in the school's Compliments and Complaints Policy.
- Ensuring that all students with medical conditions are able to participate fully in all aspects of school life.
- Ensuring that relevant training is delivered to staff members who take on responsibility to support children with medical conditions.
- Arranging appropriate cover in the event of staff absence or turnover to ensure someone is always available, and that supply staff are appropriately briefed.
- Ensuring that all relevant staff are made aware of students' individual conditions.
- Guaranteeing that information and teaching support materials regarding supporting students with medical conditions, are available to members of staff with responsibilities under this policy.
- Keeping written records of any and all medicines administered to individual students and across the school population.
- The Academy Council is legally responsible and accountable for ensuring that arrangements are in place in school to support students with medical conditions.
- The Academy Council will ensure that school leaders consult health and social care professionals, students and parents/carers to ensure that the needs of children with medical conditions are effectively supported.
- The Academy Council will ensure that it meets its duty under the Equality Act 2010.
- Ensuring the level of insurance in place reflects the level of risk.

The Principal is responsible for:

- The day-to-day implementation and management of the Supporting Students with Medical Conditions Policy and procedures of St Martins School
- Making any necessary changes to the policy, as discussed with the Academy Council upon review.
- Ensuring the policy is developed effectively with partner agencies.
- Making staff aware of this policy.
- Liaising with healthcare professionals regarding the training required for staff.
- Making the relevant members of staff aware of a child's medical condition.
- Developing individual Care Plans.
- Ensuring a sufficient number of trained members of staff are available to implement the policy and deliver Care Plans in normal, contingency and emergency situations.
- If necessary, facilitating the recruitment of a member of staff for the purpose of delivering the promises made in this policy.
- Ensuring the correct level of insurance is in place for teachers who support students in line with this policy.
- Contacting the school nursing service in the case of any child who has a medical condition.
- Organising first-aid training.
- Carrying out appropriate risk assessments when making reasonable adjustments for students with medical conditions, to ensure the inclusion of students in activities.

Staff members are responsible for:

- Taking appropriate steps to support children with medical conditions.
- Where necessary, making reasonable adjustments to include students with medical conditions into lessons.
- Administering medication, if they have agreed and are qualified to undertake that responsibility.
- Undertaking training to achieve the necessary competency for supporting students with medical conditions, if they have agreed to undertake that responsibility.
- Familiarising themselves with procedures detailing how to respond when they become aware that a student with a medical condition needs help.

School nurses are responsible for:

- Notifying the school when a child has been identified as requiring support in school due to a medical condition.
- Liaising locally with lead clinicians on appropriate support.
- Supporting staff with implementing a child's EHCP, where necessary.

Parents and carers are responsible for:

- Keeping the school informed about any changes to their child/children's health.
- Completing a parental agreement for school to administer medicine form before bringing medication into school.
- Providing the school with the medication their child requires and keeping it up-to-date.
- Collecting any leftover medicine at the end of the course or year.
- Discussing medications with their child/children prior to requesting that a staff member administers the medication.

Students are responsible for:

- Providing necessary information about how their medical condition affects them.
- Being actively involved in discussions about their medical support.
- Contributing to the development of, and complying with, their EHCP.
- Being sensitive to any other students with medical conditions.

Staff Training

Any member of school staff providing support to a student with medical needs will have received suitable training. This will have been identified during the development or review of EHCPs. Where staff already have some knowledge of the specific support needed by a child with a medical condition, extensive training may not be required. Staff who provide support to students with medical conditions will be included in meetings where this is discussed.

The relevant healthcare professional will normally lead on identifying and agreeing with the school, the type and level of training required, and how this can be obtained. The school may choose to arrange the training themselves and will ensure this remains up-to-date.

Training will be sufficient to ensure that staff are competent and have confidence in their ability to support students with medical conditions, and to fulfil the requirements as set out in individual student's school healthcare plans. This will include an understanding of the specific medical conditions they are being asked to deal with, their implications and preventative measures.

Staff must not give prescription medicines or undertake health care procedures without appropriate training (updated to reflect any individual student's school healthcare plans). A first aid certificate does not constitute appropriate training in supporting children with medical conditions. Healthcare professionals, which may include the school nurse, will provide confirmation of the proficiency of staff, in a medical procedure, or in providing medication.

All staff will be made aware of the school's policy for supporting students with medical conditions and their role in implementing that policy during an annual inset day and via whole school email, with the policy available for reference on the Staff Shared Area and the school website. Induction arrangements for new

staff will include reference to this policy. The advice of the relevant healthcare professionals will be taken on training that will help ensure that all medical conditions affecting students in the school are understood fully. This will include preventative and emergency measures so that staff can recognise and act quickly when a problem occurs.

Education Health Care Plans

These will include, as appropriate:

- The medical condition, its triggers, signs, symptoms and treatments;
- The student's resulting needs, including medication (dose, side-effects and storage) and other treatments, time, facilities, equipment, testing, access to food and drink where this is used to manage their condition, dietary requirements and environmental issues e.g., crowded corridors,
- Specific support for the student's educational, social and emotional needs – for example, how absences will be managed, requirements for extra time to complete exams, use of rest periods or additional support in catching up with lessons, counselling sessions;
- The level of support needed, (some children will be able to take responsibility for their own health needs), including in emergencies.
- If a child is self-managing their medication, this should be clearly stated with appropriate arrangements for monitoring;
- Who will provide this support, their training needs, expectations of their role and confirmation of proficiency to provide support for the child's medical condition from a healthcare professional; and cover arrangements for when they are unavailable;
- Who in the school needs to be aware of the child's condition and the support required;
- Arrangements for written permission from parent/carers and the head teacher for medication to be administered by a member of staff, or self-administered by the student during school hours;
- Separate arrangements or procedures required for school trips or other school activities outside of the normal school timetable that will ensure the child can participate, e.g. risk assessments;
- Where confidentiality issues are raised by the parent/child, the designated individuals to be entrusted with information about the child's condition; and
- What to do in an emergency, including whom to contact, and contingency arrangements.
- Where children have an emergency healthcare plan prepared by their lead clinician, this will be used to inform development of their EHCP.

Managing Medicines

Where possible, it is preferable for medicines to be prescribed in frequencies that allow the student to take them outside of school hours.

No child will be given any prescription medicines without written parental consent, except in exceptional circumstances.

No child under 16 years of age will be given medication containing aspirin without a doctor's prescription. Medicines **MUST** be in date, labelled, and provided in the original container (except in the case of insulin which may come in a pen or pump) with dosage instructions. Medicines which do not meet these criteria will not be administered.

A maximum of four weeks supply of the medication may be provided to the school at one time. Controlled drugs may only be taken on school premises by the individual to whom they have been prescribed. Passing such drugs to others is an offence which will be dealt with under our Drug and Alcohol Policy.

All medications will be stored safely in the school's medical room.

Medicines and devices such as asthma inhalers, blood glucose testing and adrenaline pens will always be readily available to students and will not be locked away.

School staff may administer a controlled drug to the child for whom it has been prescribed. Staff administering medicines will do so in accordance with the prescriber's instructions.

The School will keep a record of all medicines administered to individual children, stating what, how and how much was administered, when and by whom. Any side effects of the medication to be administered at school will be noted.

When no longer required, medicines will be returned to the parent/carer to arrange for safe disposal via the bus escort hand to hand. Sharps boxes will always be used for the disposal of needles and other sharps.

Record Keeping

The Academy Council is responsible for ensuring that written records are kept of all medicines administered to children.

On a day-to-day basis, staff administering medication will keep written records of all medicines given, and sign to confirm the details.

Parent/carers will be informed if their child has been unwell at school, either by home-school book, phone call or in person as appropriate.

Emergency Procedures

The School's First Aid Policy sets out what should happen in an emergency. Student Care Plans will clearly define what constitutes an emergency and explain what to do, including ensuring that all relevant staff are aware of emergency symptoms and procedures. Where appropriate, other students in school will be briefed on what to do in general terms, such as informing a member of staff immediately if they think help is needed.

If a child needs to be taken to hospital, staff will stay with the child until the parent/carer arrives, or accompany a child taken to hospital by ambulance.

Day Trips, Residential Visits and Sporting Activities

Students with medical conditions will be actively supported to participate in school trips and visits, or in sporting activities, so that their condition does not prevent them from doing so. Teachers will be aware of how a child's medical condition will impact on their participation, but be flexible enough to enable all children to participate according to their own abilities and with any reasonable adjustments.

The school will make arrangements for the inclusion of students in such activities with any adjustments as required unless evidence from a clinician such as a GP states that this is not possible. School staff will consider what reasonable adjustments they might make to enable children with medical needs to participate fully and safely on visits. The lead member of staff will carry out a risk assessment so that planning arrangements take account of any steps needed to ensure that students with medical conditions are included. This may require consultation with parents/carers and students and advice from the relevant healthcare professional to ensure that students can participate safely.

Points for consideration

School does not assume that every child with the same condition requires the same treatment

School will not send children with medical conditions home frequently, or prevent them from staying for normal school activities, unless this is specified in their IHP
If a child becomes ill, they will not be sent to the school office or medical room unaccompanied.

School take into consideration hospital appointments when monitoring attendance
School does not prevent students from drinking, eating or taking toilet or other breaks whenever they need to in order to manage their medical condition effectively

School will not require parents, or make them feel obliged, to attend school to administer medication or provide medical support to their child, including toileting issues. No parent will have to give up working because the school is failing to support their child's medical needs

School will not prevent children from participating in any aspect of school life, including school trips, by requiring parents to accompany.

Liability and Indemnity

St Martins School has an Insurance Policy that provides liability cover relating to the administration of medication.

Any parents of students dissatisfied with the support provided should discuss their concerns directly with the school. If this cannot be resolved parents may make a formal complaint via the schools complaints procedure.

The Principal will have overall responsibility that this Policy is implemented and that risk assessments for school visits are undertaken.

Complaints

The procedure for making a complaint is set out in the School Compliments and Complaints Policy available to parent/carers/students on the school website.

The school hopes that should parents/carers or students be dissatisfied with the support provided, they will discuss their concerns directly with school first. If for whatever reason this does not resolve the issue, they may make a formal complaint via the school's complaints procedure.

Making a formal complaint to the Department for Education should only occur if it comes within scope of section 496/497 of the Education Act 1996 and after other attempts at resolution have been exhausted. Ultimately, parent/carers (and students) will be able to take independent legal advice and bring formal proceedings if they consider they have legitimate grounds to do so.

Further Sources of Information:

Other Safeguarding Legislation

Section 21 of the Education Act 2002 provides that governing bodies of maintained schools must in discharging their functions in relation to the conduct of the school promote the well-being of students at the school.

Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 provides that governing bodies of maintained schools must make arrangements for ensuring that their functions relating to the conduct of the school are exercised with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children who are students at the school.

Section 3 of the Children Act 1989 provides a duty on a person with the care of a child (who does not have parental responsibility for the child) to do all that is reasonable in all the circumstances for the purposes of safeguarding or promoting the welfare of the child.

Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 gives local authorities a general duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in need in their area.

Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 provides that the local authority must make arrangements to promote co-operation between the authority and relevant partners (including the Academy Council of a maintained school, the proprietor of an academy, clinical commissioning groups and the NHS Commissioning Board) with a view to improving the well-being of children, including their physical and mental

health, protection from harm and neglect, and education. Relevant partners are under a duty to cooperate in the making of these arrangements.

The NHS Act 2006: Section 3 gives Clinical Commissioning Groups a duty to arrange for the provision of health services to the extent the CCG considers it necessary to meet the reasonable needs of the persons for whom it's responsible. Section 3A provides for a CCG to arrange such services as it considers appropriate to secure improvements in physical and mental health of, and in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of illness, in the persons for whom it's responsible. Section 2A provides for local authorities to secure improvements to public health, and in doing so, to commission school nurses.

The Academy Council's duties towards disabled children and adults are included in the Equality Act 2010, and the key elements are as follows:

- They must not discriminate against, harass or victimise disabled children and young people.
- They must make reasonable adjustments to ensure that disabled children and young people are not at a substantial disadvantage compared with their peers. This duty is anticipatory: adjustments must be planned and put in place in advance, to prevent that disadvantage

Other Relevant Legislation

Section 2 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, and the associated regulations, provides that it is the duty of the employer (the local authority, Academy Council or academy trust) to take reasonable steps to ensure that staff and students are not exposed to risks to their health and safety.

Under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and associated Regulations the supply, administration, possession and storage of certain drugs are controlled. Schools may have a child that has been prescribed a controlled drug.

The Medicines Act 1968 specifies the way that medicines are prescribed, supplied and administered within the UK and places restrictions on dealings with medicinal products, including their administration.