



# THE OUTDOORS SCHOOL

## Supporting learners with medical conditions policy

The Outdoors School

**Approved by:**

J.Breeze

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### 1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Learners, staff and parents understand how our school will support learners with medical conditions
- Learners with medical conditions are properly supported to allow them to access the same education as other learners, including school trips and sporting activities

The Directors will implement this policy by:

- Making sure sufficient staff are suitably trained
- Making staff aware of learners' conditions, where appropriate
- Making sure there are cover arrangements to ensure someone is always available to support learners with medical conditions
- Providing supply staff with appropriate information about the policy and relevant learners
- Developing and monitoring individual healthcare plans (IHCPs)

**The named person with responsibility for implementing this policy is P Wilkins - SENDCo**

## 2. Legislation and statutory responsibilities

This policy meets the requirements under Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014, which places a duty on Directors to make arrangements for supporting learners at The Outdoors school with medical conditions.

It is also based on the Department for Education (DfE)'s statutory guidance on supporting learners with medical conditions at school.

## 3. Roles and responsibilities

### 3.1 The Directors

The Directors has ultimate responsibility to make arrangements to support learners with medical conditions. The Directors will ensure that sufficient staff have received suitable training and are competent before they are responsible for supporting children with medical conditions.

### 3.2 The headteacher

The headteacher will:

- › Make sure all staff are aware of this policy and understand their role in its implementation
- › Ensure that there is a sufficient number of trained staff available to implement this policy and deliver against all individual healthcare plans (IHCPs), including in contingency and emergency situations
- › Ensure that all staff who need to know are aware of a child's condition
- › Take overall responsibility for the development of IHCPs
- › Make sure that school staff are appropriately insured and aware that they are insured to support learners in this way
- › Contact the school nursing service in the case of any learner who has a medical condition that may require support at school, but who has not yet been brought to the attention of the school nurse
- › Ensure that systems are in place for obtaining information about a child's medical needs and that this information is kept up to date

### 3.3 Staff

Supporting learners with medical conditions during school hours is not the sole responsibility of one person. Any member of staff may be asked to provide support to learners with medical conditions, although they will not be required to do so. This includes the administration of medicines.

Those staff who take on the responsibility to support learners with medical conditions will receive sufficient and suitable training and will achieve the necessary level of competency before doing so.

Staff will take into account the needs of learners with medical conditions that they work with. All staff will know what to do and respond accordingly when they become aware that a learner with a medical condition needs help.

### **3.4 Parents**

Parents will:

- › Provide the school with sufficient and up-to-date information about their child's medical needs
- › Be involved in the development and review of their child's IHCP and may be involved in its drafting
- › Carry out any action they have agreed to as part of the implementation of the IHCP, e.g. provide medicines and equipment, and ensure they or another nominated adult are contactable at all times

### **3.5 Learners**

Learners with medical conditions will often be best placed to provide information about how their condition affects them. Whenever possible, learners should be involved in discussions about their medical support needs and contribute as much as possible to the development of their IHCPs. They are also expected to comply with their IHCPs.

### **3.6 Healthcare professionals**

Healthcare professionals, such as GPs, CAMHs and paediatricians, will liaise with the SENDCo or Assistant SENDCos and notify them of any learners identified as having a medical condition. They may also provide advice on developing IHCPs.

## **4. Equal opportunities**

Our school is clear about the need to actively support learners with medical conditions to participate in school trips and visits, or in sporting activities, and not prevent them from doing so.

The school will consider what reasonable adjustments need to be made to enable these learners to participate fully and safely on school trips and visits.

Risk assessments will be carried out so that planning arrangements take account of any steps needed to ensure that learners with medical conditions are included. In doing so, learners, their parents and any relevant healthcare professionals will be consulted.

## **5. Being notified that a child has a medical condition**

When the school is notified that a learner has a medical condition, the process outlined below will be followed to decide whether the learner requires an IHCP.

The school will make every effort to ensure that arrangements are put into place within 2 weeks, or by the beginning of the relevant term for learners who are new to our school.

See Appendix 1.

## 6. Individual healthcare plans (IHCPs)

The headteacher has overall responsibility for the development of IHCPs for learners with medical conditions. This has been delegated to the SENDCo

Plans will be reviewed at least annually, or earlier if there is evidence that the learner's needs have changed.

Plans will be developed with the learner's best interests in mind and will set out:

- What needs to be done
- When
- By whom

Not all learners with a medical condition will require an IHCP. It will be agreed with a healthcare professional and the parents when an IHCP would be inappropriate or disproportionate. This will be based on evidence. If there is no consensus, the headteacher and SENDCo will make the final decision.

Plans will be drawn up in partnership with the school, parents, and a relevant healthcare professional, such as the school nurse, specialist, or paediatrician, who can best advise on the learner's specific needs. The learner will be involved wherever appropriate.

IHCPs will be linked to, or become part of, any education, health and care (EHC) plan.

The level of detail in the plan will depend on the complexity of the learner's condition and how much support is needed. The Directors and SENDCo will consider the following when deciding what information to record on IHCPs:

- The medical condition, its triggers, signs, symptoms and treatments
- The learner'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, travel time between lessons
- Specific support for the learner'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, including in emergencies. If a learner is self-managing their medication, this will 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 learner'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 learner's condition and the support required
- Arrangements for written permission from parents and the headteacher for medication to be administered by a member of staff, or self-administered by the learner 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 learner can participate, e.g. risk assessments
- Where confidentiality issues are raised by the parent/learner, the designated individuals to be entrusted with information about the learner's condition
- What to do in an emergency, including who to contact, and contingency arrangements

## 7. Managing medicines

Prescription and non-prescription medicines will only be administered at school:

- When it would be detrimental to the learner's health or school attendance not to do so **and**
- Where we have parents' written consent

Learners under 16 will not be given medicine containing aspirin unless prescribed by a doctor.

Anyone giving a learner any medication (for example, for pain relief) will first check maximum dosages and when the previous dosage was taken. Parents will always be informed.

The school will only accept prescribed medicines that are:

- In-date
- Labelled
- Provided in the original container, as dispensed by the pharmacist, and include instructions for administration, dosage and storage

The school will accept insulin that is inside an insulin pen or pump rather than its original container, but it must be in date.

All medicines will be stored safely. Learners will be informed about where their medicines are at all times and be able to access them immediately. Medicines and devices such as asthma inhalers, blood glucose testing meters and adrenaline pens will always be readily available to learners and not locked away.

Medicines will be returned to parents to arrange for safe disposal when no longer required.

### 7.1 Controlled drugs

Controlled drugs are prescription medicines that are controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001 and subsequent amendments, such as morphine or methadone.

All controlled drugs are kept in a secure locked cupboard in the site's office or first aid room and only named staff have access.

Controlled drugs will be easily accessible in an emergency and a record of any doses used and the amount held will be kept.

### 7.2 Learners managing their own needs

Learners who are competent will be encouraged to take responsibility for managing their own medicines and procedures. This will be discussed with parents, and it will be reflected in their IHCPs.

Staff will not force a learner to take a medicine or carry out a necessary procedure if they refuse but will follow the procedure agreed in the IHCP and inform parents so that an alternative option can be considered, if necessary.

### 7.3 Unacceptable practice

School staff should use their discretion and judge each case individually with reference to the learner's IHCP, but it is generally not acceptable to:

- Prevent learners from easily accessing their inhalers and medication, and administering their medication when and where necessary
- Assume that every learner with the same condition requires the same treatment
- Ignore the views of the learner or their parents

- Ignore medical evidence or opinion (although this may be challenged)
- Send children with medical conditions home frequently for reasons associated with their medical condition or prevent them from staying for normal school activities, unless this is specified in their IHCPs
- If the learner becomes ill, send them to the school office or medical room unaccompanied or with someone unsuitable
- Penalise learners for their attendance record if their absences are related to their medical condition, e.g., hospital appointments
- Prevent learners from drinking, eating or taking toilet or other breaks whenever they need to in order to manage their medical condition effectively
- Require parents, or otherwise make them feel obliged, to attend school to administer medication or provide medical support to their learner, including with toileting issues. No parent should have to give up working because the school is failing to support their child's medical needs
- Prevent learners from participating, or create unnecessary barriers to learners participating in any aspect of school life, including school trips, e.g. by requiring parents to accompany their child
- Administer, or ask learners to administer, medicine in school toilets

## 8. Emergency procedures

Staff will follow the school's normal emergency procedures (for example, calling 999). All learners' IHCPs will clearly set out what constitutes an emergency and will explain what to do.

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

## 9. Training

Staff who are responsible for supporting learners with medical needs will receive suitable and sufficient training to do so.

The training will be identified during the development or review of IHCPs. Staff who provide support to learners with medical conditions will be included in meetings where this is discussed.

The relevant healthcare professionals will lead on identifying the type and level of training required and will agree this with the SENDCo. Training will be kept up to date.

Training will:

- Be sufficient to ensure that staff are competent and have confidence in their ability to support the learners
- Fulfil the requirements in the IHCPs
- Help staff to have an understanding of the specific medical conditions they are being asked to deal with, their implications and preventative measures

Healthcare professionals will provide confirmation of the proficiency of staff in a medical procedure, or in providing medication.

All staff will receive training so that they are aware of this policy and understand their role in implementing it, for example, with preventative and emergency measures so they can recognise and act quickly when a problem occurs. This will be provided for new staff during their induction.

## 10. Record keeping

The Directors will ensure that written records are kept of all medicine administered to learners for as long as these learners are at the school. Parents will be informed if their learner has been unwell at school.

IHCPs are kept in a readily accessible place which all staff are aware of.

Medication Administration Records (MAR) are always completed.

The trained staff member who accepts the medication should complete the MAR chart with: name of learner, date of receipt, name/strength/dosage of medications, quantity received and the sign

The staff member who administers the medication(s) should complete the MAR chart straight after administration. This should include the following information: whether the medication was administered, refused, spilled, soiled or disposed of.

All records will be: easy to follow, up to date, accurate, easy to read, written in black pen, completed asap, signed and dated.

When completing medication records staff will never: use pencil, use colour ink, use correction fluid or complete before the event.

All records will fall in line with the Data protection Act (2018)

## 11. Liability and indemnity

The Directors will ensure that the appropriate level of insurance is in place and appropriately reflects the school's level of risk.

Risk assessments are in placed where needed.

## 12. Complaints

Parents with a complaint about their child's medical condition should discuss these directly with the SENDCo in the first instance. If the SENDCo cannot resolve the matter, they will direct parents to the school's complaints procedure.

## 13. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed and approved by the Directors annually.

## 14. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Complaints
- Equality information and objectives
- First aid



- Health and safety
- Safeguarding
- Special educational needs information report and policy

## Appendix 1: Being notified a child has a medical condition

