



Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy

Policy Reference No	H&S019
Review Frequency	Annual
Reviewed	Summer 2024
Next Review Date	Autumn 2025
Approved by Trust Board	Autumn 2023

(This policy supersedes all previous Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions policies)

Change Log

Date	Changes to Policy
November 2019	Opening statement updated General wording update to The Trust Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions DfE version updated to 2015 Administration of Medicine including the use of asthma inhalers - section changed to refer to First Aid Policy.
December 2020	Reference; 0-25 SEND CoP updated April 2020
January 2023	Head of Academy amended to Head Teacher
September 2023	
January 2024	Updates sections to specifically include allergies. Sections 4, 5, 8 and 9
July 2024	Reviewed – no updates

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1. Introduction

The Learning Academy Partnership (hereinafter 'The Trust') accepts that it has the responsibility to ensure that; Pupils with medical conditions should be properly supported so that they have full access to education, including school trips and physical education whilst attending the Academy sites forming the Trust.

The **Ofsted** inspection framework places a clear emphasis on meeting the needs of disabled children and pupils with SEN and considering the quality of teaching and the progress made by these pupils. Inspectors are already briefed to consider the needs of pupils with chronic or long-term medical conditions alongside these groups and to report on how well their needs are being met. Schools are expected to have a policy dealing with medical needs and to be able to demonstrate that it is being implemented effectively.

This policy is written in line with the requirements of:

- **Children and Families Act 2014 - section 100**
- **Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions DfE - August 2017**
- **0-25 SEND Code of Practice, DfE 2014 - updated April 2020**
- **Equalities Act 2010**

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following Trust policies:

- SEND Inclusion Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- First Aid Policy.

2. The Statutory Duty of the Governing Body

The Board of Trustees remains legally responsible and accountable for fulfilling their statutory duty for supporting pupils with medical conditions. The Learning Academy Partnership Board of Trustees fulfils this by:

- Ensuring that arrangements are in place to support pupils with medical conditions. In doing so we will ensure that such children can access and enjoy the same opportunities at school as any other child.
- Taking into account that many medical conditions that require support at school will affect the quality of life and may be life-threatening. Some will be more obvious than others and therefore the focus is on the needs of each individual child and how their medical condition impacts on their school life.
- Ensuring that the arrangements give parents and pupils confidence in the school's ability to provide effective support for medical conditions, should show an understanding of how medical conditions impact on a child's ability to learn, as well as increase their confidence and promote self-care. We will ensure that staff are properly trained to provide the support that pupils need.
- Ensuring that no child with a medical condition is denied admission or prevented from taking up a place in school because arrangements for their medical condition have not been made. However, in line with safeguarding duties, we will ensure that pupils' health is not put at unnecessary risk from, for example, infectious diseases, and reserve the right to refuse admittance to a child at times where it would be detrimental to the health of that child or others to do so.
- Ensuring that the arrangements put in place are sufficient to meet our statutory duties and ensure that policies, plans, procedures, and systems are properly and effectively implemented.
- Developing a policy for supporting pupils with medical conditions that is reviewed regularly and accessible to parents and academy staff.
- Ensuring that the policy includes details on how the policy will be implemented effectively, including who has overall responsibility for policy implementation.
- Ensuring that the policy sets out the procedures to be followed whenever the school is notified that a pupil has a medical condition.
- Ensuring that the policy covers the role of individual healthcare plans, and who is responsible for their development, in supporting pupils at school with medical conditions.

- Ensuring that the Trust's policy clearly identifies the roles and responsibilities of all those involved in arrangements for supporting pupils at school with medical conditions and how they will be supported, how their training needs will be assessed and how and by whom training will be commissioned and provided.
- Ensuring that the Learning Academy Partnership's policy covers arrangements for children who are competent to manage their own health needs and medicines.
- Ensuring that the policy is clear about the procedures to be followed for managing medicines including the completion of written records.
- Ensuring that the policy sets out what should happen in an emergency situation.
- Ensuring that the arrangements are clear and unambiguous about the need to support actively pupils with medical conditions to participate in school trips and visits, or in sporting activities, and not prevent them from doing so.
- Ensuring that the appropriate level of insurance is in place and appropriate to the level of risk.
- Ensuring that the policy sets out how complaints may be made and will be handled concerning the support to pupils with medical conditions.

3. Policy Implementation

The statutory duty for making arrangements for supporting pupils at school with medical conditions rests with the Board of Trustees.

All members of staff are expected to show an awareness of children's medical conditions and the expectations of this policy. All new members of staff will be inducted into the arrangements and guidelines in this policy upon taking up their post.

4. Procedure to be followed when notification is received that a pupil has a medical condition or allergy

For children being admitted to the academy for the first time with good notification given, the arrangements will be in place for the start of the relevant school term. In other cases, such as a new diagnosis or a child moving to the Academy mid-term, we will make every effort to ensure that arrangements are put in place within two weeks.

In making the arrangements, we will take into account that many of the medical conditions and allergies that require support at school will affect the quality of life and may be life-threatening. We also acknowledge that some may be more obvious than others. We will therefore ensure that the focus is on the needs of each individual child and how their medical condition impacts on their school life. We aim to ensure that parents/carers and pupils can have confidence in our ability to provide effective support for medical conditions and avoidance of allergic reactions in school, so the arrangements will show an understanding of how medical conditions impact on the child's ability to learn, as well as increase their confidence and promote self-care.

We will ensure that staff are properly trained and supervised to support pupils' medical conditions and will be clear and unambiguous about the need to actively support pupils with medical conditions and allergies to participate in school trips and visits, or in sporting activities, and not prevent them in doing so. We will make arrangements for the inclusion of pupils in such activities with any adjustments as required unless evidence from a clinician, such as a GP states that this is not possible. We will make sure that no child with a medical condition is denied admission or prevented from attending the school because arrangements for supporting their medical condition have not been made. However, in line with our safeguarding duties, we will ensure that all pupils' health is not put at unnecessary risk from, for example infectious disease. We will therefore not accept a child in school at times where it would be detrimental to the health of that child or others.

In cases where a pupil'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. The Head Teacher, supported by the Senior Leadership Team and Healthcare professionals, will have the final decision on whether an Individual Healthcare Plan is required.

The Head Teacher is responsible for the implementation of this policy within their setting but may request the input of specialised staff for example Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator.

5. Individual Healthcare Plans

Individual healthcare plans will help to ensure that the Trust effectively supports pupils with medical conditions. They will 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.

The Individual Healthcare Plan template in Appendix 1 is to be used for each plan required within the Trust when one is not provided by the pupils GP or specialist.

Individual healthcare plans will be easily accessible to all who need to refer to them, while preserving confidentiality. Plans will capture the key information and actions that are required to support the child effectively. The level of detail within the plan will depend on the complexity of the child's condition and the degree of support needed. This is important because different children with the same health condition may require very different support. Where a child has SEN but does not have an EHCP, their special educational needs should be mentioned in their individual healthcare plan.

Individual healthcare plans should be drawn up in partnership between the academy, parents/carers and a relevant healthcare professional who can advise on the particular needs of the child. Pupils should also be involved whenever appropriate. The aim should be to capture the steps which the Trust should take to help manage their condition and overcome any potential barriers to getting the most from their education.

The Trust will ensure that individual healthcare plans are reviewed annually or earlier if evidence is presented that the child's needs have changed. Where a child is returning to school following a period of hospital education or alternative provision, we will work with the local authority and education provider to ensure that the individual healthcare plan identifies the support the child will need to reintegrate effectively.

Parents/carers should provide the school with sufficient and up-to-date information about their child's medical needs and allergies. They may in some cases be the first to notify the school that their child has a medical condition. Parents should carry out any action they have agreed to as part of the healthcare plan's implementation, e.g. provide medicines and equipment and ensure they or another nominated adult are contactable at all times.

6. Administration of Medicine including the use of asthma inhalers and EpiPens

Please refer to Learning Academy Partnership policy; H&S002 First Aid policy.

7. Staff training and support

There are staff within all settings with basic first aid training and paediatric first aid training, further details can be found in the; H&S002 First Aid Policy.

Specific training according to needs will be completed as necessary, and the Appendix 2 Training Record will be completed.

The Trust will ensure that training remains up to date with sufficient numbers of trained staff based on the assessment of risk for each site.

8. Emergency Procedures

Where a child has an individual healthcare plan, this should clearly define what constitutes an emergency and explain what to do, including ensuring that all relevant staff are aware of emergency symptoms and procedures. Other pupils in the Academy should know what to do in general terms, such as informing a teacher immediately.

If a child requires emergency care above that as identified in individual healthcare plan or there is no healthcare plan, the academy administration team is to telephone 999 and request an ambulance, and then contact the parent/s or named contact to request them to come to where the child is. A member of staff is to remain with the child at all times. If the child requires hospitalisation and the parent/contact does not arrive before the ambulance leaves a member of staff is to remain with the child until the parent/contact arrives.

9. Day trips, residential visits, and sporting activities

The Trust will actively support pupils with a medical condition or allergy to participate in day trips, residential visits and sporting activities by being flexible and making reasonable adjustments, unless there is evidence from a clinician, to the contrary.

The Trust will ensure a risk assessment is conducted so that planning arrangements take account of any steps needed to ensure that pupils with medical conditions and allergies can be included safely. This will involve consultation with parents\carers and relevant healthcare professions and will be informed by Health and Safety Executive (HSE) guidance on school trips.

10. Unacceptable practice

Although Trust staff should use their discretion and judge each case on its merit with reference to the child's individual healthcare plan, it is not generally acceptable practice to:

- Prevent children from easily accessing their inhalers and medication and administering their medication when and where necessary
- Assume that every child with the same condition requires the same treatment
- Ignore the views of the child or their parents\carers; or ignore medical evidence or opinion
- Send children with medical conditions home frequently or prevent them from staying for normal school activities unless this is specified in their individual healthcare plans
- Send pupils with medical needs to the school office unaccompanied
- Penalise children for their attendance record if their absences are related to their medical condition e.g. attending hospital appointments
- Prevent pupils from drinking, eating or taking toilet breaks whenever they need to in order to manage their medical condition effectively
- Require parents/carers, or otherwise make them feel obliged to attend school to administer medication or provide medical support to their child, 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 children from participating or creating unnecessary barriers to children participating in any aspect of school life, including school trips e.g. by requiring parents to accompany the child.

11. Complaints

Should parents/carers be unhappy with any aspect of their child's care they should discuss their concerns with the child's class teacher in the first instance. If this does allay the concern or resolve matters, the problem should be brought to a member of the leadership team, who will, where necessary, bring it to the attention of the Head Teacher.

In the unlikely event this does not resolve the issue, the parent/carer should make a formal complaint using the Trust's Complaints Procedure.

Appendix 1: Individual Healthcare Plan Template

Academy:	
Child's Name:	
Year Group & Class	
Date of birth:	
Child's address:	
Medical diagnosis or condition	
Date:	
Review date:	

Family Contact information:	
Name:	
Phone no. (work)	
(home)	
(mobile)	
Name:	
Relationship to child:	
Phone no. (work)	
(home)	
(mobile)	

Clinic/hospital contact	
Name:	
Phone no.	

GP	
Name:	
Phone no.	

Describe medical needs (give details of symptoms, triggers etc.)

Name of medication - dose, method of administration and when to be taken (as applicable)

Specific support for the pupil's educational, social and emotional needs (as applicable)

Arrangements for school visits/trips etc.

Describe what constitutes an emergency, and the action to take if this occurs

Plan developed with:	
	Signature:
	Signature:

Staff training required/undertaken – who; what; when

Copies of this form to:

Appendix 2: Staff Training Record

Administration of medicines and/or medical procedures

Name:	
Type of training received:	
Date of training:	
Training provided by:	
Profession and title:	

I confirm that _____ has received the training detailed above and is competent to carry out any necessary treatment. I recommend that the training is updated.

Trainer's signature:	
Date:	

I confirm that I have received the training detailed above.

Staff signature:	
Date:	
Suggested review date:	