



# Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions

Written September 2014, Reviewed September 2018, December 2021, May 2024, January 2025

## 1. INTRODUCTION & KEY POINTS

This Policy is based on Statutory guidance for governing bodies of maintained schools and proprietors of academies in England.

### KEY POINTS

- Pupils at school with medical conditions will be properly supported so that they have full access to education, including school trips and physical education.
- The Governing body will ensure that arrangements are in place in school to support pupils at school with medical conditions.
- The Governing body will ensure that school leaders consult health and social care professionals, pupils and parents to ensure that the needs of children with medical conditions are effectively supported. The Designated Safeguarding Governor at Molescroft Primary School will monitor this through regular meetings with the Designated Safeguarding Lead and SENDCo at Molescroft Primary School.
  - ***The Molescroft Policy is effectively incorporated into the statutory advice and is shown in bold italics.***
  - ***The Interpretation of this Policy at Molescroft Primary School presumes a Pupil with a Medical Condition is NOT a child needing a short course of antibiotics, with a minor and very temporary illness.***

## 2. BACKGROUND

1. Governing bodies have a duty to make arrangements to support pupils at school with medical conditions. The statutory guidance is intended to help governing bodies meet their legal responsibilities and sets out the arrangements they will be expected to make, based on good practice. The 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 school life, remain healthy and achieve their academic potential.

2. Parents of children with medical conditions are often concerned that their child's health will deteriorate when they attend school. This is because pupils with long-term and complex medical conditions may require on-going support, medicines or care while at school to help them manage their condition and keep them well. Others may require



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monitoring and interventions in emergency circumstances. It is also the case that children's health needs may change over time, in ways that cannot always be predicted, sometimes resulting in extended absences. It is therefore important that parents feel confident that schools will provide effective support for their child's medical condition and that pupils feel safe. In making decisions about the support they provide, schools should establish relationships with relevant local health services to help them. It is crucial that schools receive and fully consider advice from healthcare professionals and listen to and value the views of parents and pupils.

3. In addition to the educational impacts, there are social and emotional implications associated with medical conditions. Children may be self-conscious about their condition and some may be bullied or develop emotional disorders such as anxiety or depression around their medical condition. 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. Reintegration back into school should be properly supported so that children with medical conditions fully engage with learning and do not fall behind when they are unable to attend. Short-term and frequent absences, including those for appointments connected with a pupil's medical condition (which can often be lengthy), also need to be effectively managed and appropriate support put in place to limit the impact on the child's educational attainment and emotional and general wellbeing.

4. Some children with medical conditions may be considered to be disabled under the definition set out in the Equality Act 2010. Where this is the case governing bodies **must** comply with their duties under that Act. Some may also have special educational needs (SEN) and may have a statement, or Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan which brings together health and social care needs, as well as their special educational provision. For children with SEN, this guidance should be read in conjunction with the Special educational needs and disability (SEND) code of practice. For pupils who have medical conditions that require EHC plans, compliance with the SEND code of practice will ensure compliance with the statutory elements of this guidance with respect to those children.

## 3. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE GOVERNING BODY

5. In meeting the duty to make arrangements to support pupils with medical conditions, functions can be conferred on a governor, a headteacher, a committee or other member of staff as appropriate. Help and co-operation can also be enlisted from other appropriate persons. We expect that an approach to meeting the duty will be taken in light of the



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statutory guidance. This will inform the school and others about what needs to be done in terms of implementation. However, the governing body, proprietor or management committee remains legally responsible and accountable for fulfilling their statutory duty.

***At Molescroft Primary School the Designated Safeguarding Lead, S.E.N.D.Co and Headteacher in cooperation with parents, child and other appropriate persons and agencies make the arrangements. The Designated Safeguarding Governor monitors this.***

6. The governing body must ensure that arrangements are in place to support pupils with medical conditions. In doing so they should ensure that such children can access and enjoy the same opportunities at school as any other child. Schools, local authorities, health professionals and other support services should work together to ensure that children 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 may also be given to how children will be reintegrated back into school after periods of absence.

7. In making their arrangements, governing bodies should take into account that many of the medical conditions that require support at school will affect quality of life and may be life-threatening. Some will be more obvious than others. Governing bodies should therefore ensure that the focus is on the needs of each individual child and how their medical condition impacts on their school life.

8. The governing body should ensure that their arrangements give parents and pupils' confidence in the school's ability to provide effective support for medical conditions in school. The arrangements 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. They should ensure that staff are properly trained to provide the support that pupils need.

9. 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 should be 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 their safeguarding duties, governing bodies should ensure that pupils' health is not put at unnecessary risk from, for example, infectious diseases. They therefore do not have to accept a child in school at times where it would be detrimental to the health of that child or others to do so.



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10. Governing bodies must ensure that the arrangements they put in place are sufficient to meet their statutory responsibilities and should ensure that policies, plans, procedures and systems are properly and effectively implemented. This aligns with their wider safeguarding duties.

11. Governing bodies should ensure that all schools develop a policy for supporting pupils with medical conditions that is reviewed regularly and is readily accessible to parents and school staff. In developing their policy, schools may wish to seek advice from any relevant healthcare professionals.

12. Governing bodies should ensure that the arrangements they set up include details on how the school's policy will be implemented effectively, including a named person who has overall responsibility for policy implementation. Details should include:

- who is responsible for ensuring that sufficient staff are suitably trained,
- a commitment that all relevant staff will be made aware of the child's condition,
  - *At Molescroft Primary School The S.E.N.D.Co and Inclusion Manager will ensure that at each stage of a child's development and change of engagement with the school (e.g. changing class) all staff, who could be called upon to understand and account for the medical needs of the child are trained in meeting the needs of the child. This would be done through a Medical Needs Meeting. This will include if relevant lunchtime, first aid, before and after school clubs' staff. If appropriate parents, the child and other agencies and health professionals will be in attendance.*
  - *The meeting will be minuted through the production of a clear summary document 'Health Care Plan' (see section 5) which will be produced and included in the Medical Needs Register in each class. These are produced with photographs by the Admin PA and are signed by a parent/carer to indicate that the information is correct. On this will be listed three individuals 'experts' to whom a Supply Teacher can contact for more details.*
  - *It is likely that the Medical Needs Meeting will be at least two meetings, the first of which produces the Health Care Plan and the second engages and disseminates the procedures i.e. 'training' to relevant staff.*
  - *A clear summary document 'Health Care Plan' is included in the Medical Needs Register in each class. The Admin PA will ensure that these are always fully up to date and that teachers are told verbally when a change has been made. On this document will be listed three individuals to whom a Supply Teacher can contact for more details. Teachers will pass on all relevant details in advance to a planned supply teacher. In the case of emergency cover, those booking such cover will have a list of all children covered by this policy and will be given essential information at the point of contact and*



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*further direct the supply teacher to one of the three named experts for full face to face instruction on arrival.*

- risk assessments for school visits, holidays, and other school activities outside of the normal timetable,
- *At Molescroft Primary School, the leader of the residential visit and the Educational Visits Coordinator are responsible for working with the S.E.N.D.Co and Inclusion Manager to ensure the appropriate staff produce the necessary Risk Assessment including the Health Care Plan adapted for the new circumstances of a Residential Visit.*
- *As school visits are a regular feature of life at Molescroft Primary School including the attendance at Sporting Events, provision for these should be included in the original Health Care Plan.*
- monitoring of individual healthcare plans.
- *The Inclusion/Child Protection Manager at their regular meeting will complete this. Health Care Plans will always be reviewed when a child is transferring to a new school year and a new teacher.*

## 4. PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED WHEN NOTIFICATION IS RECEIVED THAT A PUPIL HAS A MEDICAL CONDITION

**13. Governing bodies should ensure that the school's policy sets out the procedures to be followed whenever a school is notified that a pupil has a medical condition.**

Procedures should also be in place to cover any transitional arrangements between schools, the process to be followed upon reintegration or when pupils' needs change, and arrangements for any staff training or support. For children starting at a new school, arrangements should 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 school mid-term, every effort should be made to ensure that arrangements are put in place within two weeks.

- At Molescroft Primary School on notification that a pupil has a medical condition the Head Teacher will ask the S.E.N.D.Co and /or Inclusion Manager to call a Medical Needs Meeting. It will be agreed which staff and agencies will need to be at the meeting. The meeting should be arranged within two weeks and for children due to start at school in the Foundation Year as far in advance of the start date as possible. It is likely that the Medical Needs Meeting will be at least two meetings, the first of which produces the Health Care Plan and the second engages and disseminates the procedures i.e. 'training' to relevant staff.
- All staff, who could be called upon to understand and account for the medical needs of the child will be trained in this meeting or a subsequent meeting regarding



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the needs of the child. This will include if relevant lunchtime, first aid, before and after school clubs' staff. If appropriate parents, the child and other agencies. It is expected that healthcare professionals will be in attendance and will lead on the medical advice and procedures.

- The meeting will be minuted through the production of a clear summary document 'Health Care Plan' will be produced and included in the Medical Needs Register in each class. These are produced with photographs by the Admin PA and are signed by a parent/carer to indicate that the information is correct. On this will be listed three individuals 'experts' to whom a Supply Teacher can contact for more details.
- The same procedures will be followed in all circumstances such as a new diagnosis of a pupil already at school or children moving to Molescroft Primary School mid-term. Similarly, if the health care needs of a child change or a pupil is being reintegrated the whole process is repeated.

14. Schools do not have to wait for a formal diagnosis before providing support to pupils. 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. Where evidence conflicts, some degree of challenge may be necessary to ensure that the right support can be put in place.

## 5. INDIVIDUAL HEALTH CARE PLANS

15. **Governing bodies should ensure that the school's policy covers the role of individual healthcare plans, and who is responsible for their development, in supporting pupils at school with medical conditions.** Individual healthcare plans can help to ensure that schools effectively support pupils 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. However, not all children will require one. The school, healthcare professional and parent should agree, based on evidence, when a healthcare plan would be inappropriate or disproportionate. If consensus cannot be reached, the headteacher is best placed to take a final view. A flow chart for identifying and agreeing the support a child needs and developing an individual healthcare plan is provided at annex A.

16. The format of individual healthcare plans may vary to enable schools to choose whichever is the most effective for the specific needs of each pupil. They should be easily



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accessible to all who need to refer to them, while preserving confidentiality. Plans should not be a burden on a school, but should capture the key information and actions that are required to support the child effectively. The level of detail within plans 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 a statement or EHC plan, their special educational needs should be mentioned in their individual healthcare plan.

17. Individual healthcare plans (and their review) may be initiated, in consultation with the parent, by a member of school staff or a healthcare professional involved in providing care to the child. Plans should be drawn up in partnership between the school, parents, and a relevant healthcare professional, e.g. school, specialist or children's community nurse, who can best advise on the particular needs of the child. Pupils should also be involved whenever appropriate. The aim should be to capture the steps, which a school should take to help the child manage their condition and overcome any potential barriers to getting the most from their education. Partners should agree who will take the lead in writing the plan, but responsibility for ensuring it is finalised and implemented rests with the school. **The governing body should ensure that plans are reviewed at least annually, or earlier if evidence is presented that the child's needs have changed. They should be developed with the child's best interests in mind and ensure that the school assesses and manages risks to the child's education, health and social wellbeing, and minimises disruption.** Where the child has a special educational need identified in a statement or EHC plan, the individual healthcare plan should be linked to or become part of that statement or EHC plan.

*At Molescroft Primary School there will be at least one annual review at the moment of transfer from one year group to another. There will be additional reviews when there is any change to the circumstances around the medical condition or following a change in the circumstances of the school e.g. building work, new provision, staffing changes.*

18. Where a child is returning to school following a period of hospital education or alternative provision (including home tuition), schools should 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.

19. **When deciding what information should be recorded on individual healthcare plans, the governing body should consider the following:**

- the medical condition, its triggers, signs, symptoms and treatments;



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- the pupil'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 pupil'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 parents and the headteacher for medication to be administered by a member of staff, or self-administered by the pupil 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. Some children may have an emergency healthcare plan prepared by their lead clinician that could be used to inform development of their individual healthcare plan.

Please refer to the Molescroft Primary School Healthcare plan template below.

## 6. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

20. The governing body should ensure that the school's policy clearly identifies the roles and responsibilities of all those involved in the arrangements they make to support pupils at school with medical conditions.



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21. Supporting a child with a medical condition during school hours is not the sole responsibility of one person. A school's ability to provide effective support will depend to an appreciable extent on working co-operatively with other agencies. Partnership working between school staff, healthcare professionals (and, where appropriate, social care professionals), local authorities, and parents and pupils will be critical. An essential requirement for any policy therefore will be to identify collaborative working arrangements between all those involved, showing how they will work in partnership to ensure that the needs of pupils with medical conditions are met effectively.

22. Some of the most important roles and responsibilities are listed below, but schools may additionally want to cover a wider range of people in their policy.

- **Governing bodies – must make arrangements to support pupils with medical conditions in school, including making sure that a policy for supporting pupils with medical conditions in school is developed and implemented.** They should ensure that pupils with medical conditions are supported to enable the fullest participation possible in all aspects of school life. **Governing bodies should ensure that sufficient staff have received suitable training and are competent before they take on responsibility to support children with medical conditions.** They should also ensure that any members of school staff who provide support to pupils with medical conditions are able to access information and other teaching support materials as needed.

*At Molescroft Primary School, the above will be discussed by the DS Governor with and the DSL at their regular meetings (minimum termly)*

- Headteachers – should ensure that their school's policy is developed and effectively implemented with partners. This includes ensuring that all staff are aware of the policy for supporting pupils with medical conditions and understand their role in its implementation. Headteachers should ensure that all staff who need to know are aware of the child's condition. They should also ensure that sufficient trained numbers of staff are available to implement the policy and deliver against all individual healthcare plans, including in contingency and emergency situations. This may involve recruiting a member of staff for this purpose. Headteachers have overall responsibility for the development of individual healthcare plans. They should also make sure that school staff are appropriately insured and are aware that they are insured to support pupils in this way. They should contact the school nursing service in the case of any child 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.
- School staff – any member of school staff may be asked to provide support to pupils with medical conditions, including the administering of medicines, although they cannot be required to do so. Although administering medicines is not part of



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teachers' professional duties, they should take into account the needs of pupils with medical conditions that they teach. School staff should receive sufficient and suitable training and achieve the necessary level of competency before they take on responsibility to support children with medical conditions. Any member of school staff should know what to do and respond accordingly when they become aware that a pupil with a medical condition needs help.

- School nurses – every school has access to school nursing services. They are responsible for notifying the school when a child has been identified as having a medical condition, which will require support in school. Wherever possible, they should do this before the child starts at the school. They would not usually have an extensive role in ensuring that schools are taking appropriate steps to support children with medical conditions but may support staff on implementing a child's individual healthcare plan and provide advice and liaison, for example on training. School nurses can liaise with lead clinicians locally on appropriate support for the child and associated staff training needs - for example, there are good models of local specialist nursing teams offering training to local school staff, hosted by a local school. Community nursing teams will also be a valuable potential resource for a school seeking advice and support in relation to children with a medical condition. See also paragraphs 23 to 31 below about training for school staff.
- Other healthcare professionals, including GPs and paediatricians – should notify the school nurse when a child has been identified as having a medical condition that will require support at school. They may provide advice on developing healthcare plans. Specialist local health teams may be able to provide support in schools for children with particular conditions (e.g. asthma, diabetes, epilepsy).
- Pupils – with medical conditions will often be best placed to provide information about how their condition affects them. They should be fully involved in discussions about their medical support needs and contribute as much as possible to the development of, and comply with, their individual healthcare plan. Other pupils will often be sensitive to the needs of those with medical conditions.
- Parents – should provide the school with sufficient and up-to-date information about their child's medical needs. They may in some cases be the first to notify the school that their child has a medical condition. Parents are key partners and should be involved in the development and review of their child's individual healthcare plan, and may be involved in its drafting. They should carry out any action they have agreed to as part of its implementation, e.g. provide medicines and equipment and ensure they or another nominated adult are contactable at all times.
- Local authorities – are commissioners of school nurses for maintained schools and academies. Under Section 10 of the Children Act 2004, they have a duty to promote co-operation between relevant partners such as governing bodies of maintained schools, proprietors of academies, clinical commissioning groups and NHS England,



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with a view to improving the wellbeing of children with regard to their physical and mental health, and their education, training and recreation. Local authorities should provide support, advice and guidance, including suitable training for school staff, to ensure that the support specified within individual healthcare plans can be delivered effectively. Local authorities should work with schools to support pupils with medical conditions to attend full time. Where pupils would not receive a suitable education in a mainstream school because of their health needs, the local authority has a duty to make other arrangements. Statutory guidance for local authorities sets out that they should be ready to make arrangements under this duty when it is clear that a child will be away from school for 15 days or more because of health needs (whether consecutive or cumulative across the school year).

Providers of health services – should co-operate with schools that are supporting children with a medical condition, including appropriate communication, liaison with school nurses and other healthcare professionals such as specialist and children’s community nurses, as well as participating in locally developed outreach and training. Health services can provide valuable support, information, advice and guidance to schools, and their staff, to support children with medical conditions at school.

- Clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) – commission other healthcare professionals such as specialist nurses. They should ensure that commissioning is responsive to children’s needs, and that health services are able to co-operate with schools supporting children with medical conditions. They have a reciprocal duty to co-operate under Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 (as described above for local authorities). Clinical commissioning groups should be responsive to local authorities and schools seeking to strengthen links between health services and schools, and consider how to encourage health services in providing support and advice (and can help with any potential issues or obstacles in relation to this). The local Health and Wellbeing Board will also provide a forum for local authorities and CCGs to consider with other partners, including locally elected representatives, how to strengthen links between education, health and care settings.
- Ofsted – their 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 this is implemented effectively.



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## 7. STAFF TRAINING AND SUPPORT

23. Governing bodies should ensure that the school's policy sets out clearly how staff will be supported in carrying out their role to support pupils with medical conditions, and how this will be reviewed. This should specify how training needs are assessed, and how and by whom training will be commissioned and provided.

24. The school's policy should be clear that any member of school staff providing support to a pupil with medical needs should have received suitable training. This should have been identified during the development or review of individual healthcare plans. Some staff may already have some knowledge of the specific support needed by a child with a medical condition and so extensive training may not be required. Staff who provide support to pupils with medical conditions should be included in meetings where this is discussed.

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

26. Training should be sufficient to ensure that staff are competent and have confidence in their ability to support pupils with medical conditions, and to fulfil the requirements as set out in individual healthcare plans. They will need an understanding of the specific medical conditions they are being asked to deal with, their implications and preventative measures.

- *At Molescroft Primary School on notification that a pupil has a medical condition the Head Teacher will ask the S.E.N.D.Co and /or Inclusion Manager to call a Medical Needs Meeting. It will be agreed which staff and agencies will need to be at the meeting. The meeting should be arranged within two weeks and for children due to start at school in the Foundation Year as far in advance of the start date as possible. It is likely that the Medical Needs Meeting will be at least two meetings, the first of which produces the Health Care Plan and the second engages and disseminates the procedures i.e. 'training' to relevant staff.*
- *All staff, who could be called upon to understand and account for the medical needs of the child will be trained in this meeting or a subsequent meeting regarding the needs of the child. This will include if relevant lunchtime, first aid, before and after school clubs staff. If appropriate parents, the child and other*



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*agencies. It is expected that healthcare professionals will be in attendance and will lead on the medical advice and procedures.*

- The meeting will be minuted through the production of a clear summary document 'Health Care Plan' which will be produced and included in the Medical Needs Register in each class. These are produced with photographs by the Admin PA and are signed by a parent/carer to indicate that the information is correct. On this will be listed three individuals 'experts' to whom a Supply Teacher can contact for more details.*
- The same procedures will be followed in all circumstances such as a new diagnosis of a pupil already at school or children moving to Molescroft Primary School mid-term. Similarly if the health care needs of a child change or a pupil is being reintegrated the whole process is repeated.*

27. Staff must not give prescription medicines or undertake healthcare procedures without appropriate training (updated to reflect any individual healthcare plans). In some cases, written instructions from the parent or on the medication container dispensed by the pharmacist may be considered sufficient, but ultimately this is for the school to decide, having taken into consideration the training requirements as specified in pupils' individual health care plans. A first-aid certificate does not constitute appropriate training in supporting children with medical conditions.

*At Molescroft Primary School the Healthcare Plan will direct all the administration of medicines. Any administration will be by a named person(s) and will be fully recorded. It will always be preceded by signed parental agreement and description of dosage etc. The named person will be appropriate to the task because the named person will have received training in the task.*

28. Healthcare professionals, including the school nurse, can provide confirmation of the proficiency of staff in a medical procedure, or in providing medication.

29. The school's policy should additionally set out arrangements for whole school awareness training so that all staff are aware of the school's policy for supporting pupils with medical conditions and their role in implementing that policy. Induction arrangements for new staff should be included. The relevant healthcare professional should be able to advise on training that will help ensure that all medical conditions affecting pupils in the school are understood fully. This includes preventative and emergency measures so that staff can recognise and act quickly when a problem occurs.



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***At Molescroft Primary School the induction package for all staff and volunteers covers all aspects of this policy. There is an annual review for all staff.***

30. The family of a child will often be key in providing relevant information to school staff about how their child's needs can be met, and parents should be asked for their views. They should provide specific advice, but should not be the sole trainer.

***At Molescroft Primary School, parents/carers will always be taken into account at a Medical Needs Meeting. Parents will be asked to sign a Health Care Plan confirming their approval.***

31. Governing bodies should consider providing details of continuing professional development provision opportunities.

## 8. THE CHILD'S ROLE IN MANAGING THEIR OWN MEDICAL NEEDS

32. Governing bodies should ensure that the school's policy covers arrangements for children who are competent to manage their own health needs and medicines. After discussion with parents, children who are competent should be encouraged to take responsibility for managing their own medicines and procedures. This should be reflected within individual healthcare plans.

- ***This is Molescroft Primary School Policy but is expected to be only appropriate for our oldest pupils in rare circumstances.***

33. Wherever possible, children should be allowed to carry their own medicines and relevant devices or should be able to access their medicines for self-medication quickly and easily. Children who can take their medicines themselves or manage procedures may require an appropriate level of supervision. If it is not appropriate for a child to self-manage, then relevant staff should help to administer medicines and manage procedures for them.

***Generally, the above would not be seen as being appropriate for Primary School pupils, though it is acknowledged that in exceptional circumstances this could be facilitated in a safe area away from other children.***

34. If a child refuses to take medicine or carry out a necessary procedure, staff should not force them to do so, but follow the procedure agreed in the individual healthcare plan. Parents should be informed so that alternative options can be considered.



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**At Molescroft Primary School if a child refused to take a medicine, parents would be contacted immediately for their advice and decision.**

## 9. MANAGING MEDICINES ON SCHOOL PREMISES

35. The governing body should ensure that the school's policy is clear about the procedures to be followed for managing medicines. Although schools may already have such procedures in place, they should reflect the following details:

- medicines should only be administered at school when it would be detrimental to a child's health or school attendance not to do so
  - ***This is Molescroft Primary School Policy***
- no child under 16 should be given prescription or non-prescription medicines without their parent's written consent
  - ***This is Molescroft Primary School Policy***
- – except in exceptional circumstances where the medicine has been prescribed to the child without the knowledge of the parents. In such cases, every effort should be made to encourage the child or young person to involve their parents while respecting their right to confidentiality. Schools should set out the circumstances in which non-prescription medicines may be administered
  - ***This is not possible at a Primary School. The adult with legal responsibility would know of a prescribed medicine.***
  - ***The school will not administer non-prescription medicines without parental consent. The only exception may be the use of an asthma inhaler in a situation deemed to be an emergency by a qualified first aider.***
- a child under 16 should never be given medicine containing aspirin unless prescribed by a doctor. Medication, e.g. for pain relief, should never be administered without first checking maximum dosages and when the previous dose was taken. Parents should be informed
  - ***The only occasion where pain relief medication would be administered is on a residential Visit. In order to administer 'Calpol' pre approval is gained from the parent prior to the visit.***
- where clinically possible, medicines should be prescribed in dose frequencies which enable them to be taken outside school hours
  - ***This is the first request made by Molescroft Primary School to parents when a request is received to administer medicines.***
- schools should only accept prescribed medicines that 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



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which must still be in date, but will generally be available to schools inside an insulin pen or a pump, rather than in its original container

- ***This is Molescroft Primary School Policy***
- all medicines should be stored safely. Children should know where their medicines are at all times and be able to access them immediately. Where relevant, they should know who holds the key to the storage facility. Medicines and devices such as asthma inhalers, blood glucose testing meters and adrenaline pens should be always readily available to children and not locked away. This is particularly important to consider when outside of school premises, e.g. on school trips
  - ***This is Molescroft Primary School Policy. All medicines\* are stored in year group storage boxes in the staff room. They are under the management of the Lead First Aider. They are not actually locked away to ensure immediate access, but they are stored in the one area of the school where children do not enter unaccompanied.***
  - ***\* The exceptions are medicines and inhalers, which are required to be worn by the pupil and those which by their nature have to be stored in the classroom.***
- a child who has been prescribed a controlled drug may legally have it in their possession if they are competent to do so, but passing it to another child for use is an offence. Monitoring arrangements may be necessary. Schools should otherwise keep controlled drugs that have been prescribed for a pupil securely stored in a non-portable container and only named staff should have access. Controlled drugs should be easily accessible in an emergency. A record should be kept of any doses used and the amount of the controlled drug held in school
  - ***The above is noted but is highly unlikely at Molescroft Primary School.***
- school staff may administer a controlled drug to the child for whom it has been prescribed. Staff administering medicines should do so in accordance with the prescriber's instructions. Schools should 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 should be noted
  - ***The above is noted but is highly unlikely at Molescroft Primary School.***
- when no longer required, medicines should be returned to the parent to arrange for safe disposal. Sharps boxes should always be used for the disposal of needles and other sharps
  - ***This is Molescroft Primary School Policy.***

## 10. RECORD KEEPING



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**36. Governing bodies should ensure that written records are kept of all medicines administered to children.** Records offer protection to staff and children and provide evidence that agreed procedures have been followed. Parents should be informed if their child has been unwell at school.

*At Molescroft Primary School, use of centrally held Asthma Inhalers is recorded and information is available to parents.*

*The administration of ALL other medicines is ALWAYS recorded through a child's individual health pack. The authorisation and procedures for the administration of medicine is agreed in advance between the school and the person(s) administering the medicine. Parents can view the evidence.*

*Parents are requested to collect out of date or unused or no longer required medicine from the school.*

*If a child has received a bump to the head a parent is automatically informed by text message.*

*If a child is unwell a parent is contacted by telephone and action agreed. This may include the child staying at school but being monitored.*

*If a child says that he or she is unwell but appears to be well enough to stay at school, a parent will be contacted by telephone, but not necessarily expected to come to school.*

## 11. EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

**37. Governing bodies should ensure that the school's policy sets out what should happen in an emergency situation.** As part of general risk management processes, all schools should have arrangements in place for dealing with emergencies for all school activities wherever they take place, including on school trips within and outside the UK.

*Molescroft Primary School has a full and comprehensive Emergency Plan covering all situations. Further there is an adaptation of this plan regarding Residential Visits.*

**38.** 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 school should



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know what to do in general terms, such as informing a teacher immediately if they think help is needed.

***At Molescroft Primary School those with Medical health care plans are cross referenced in the Emergency Plan.***

39. If a child needs to be taken to hospital, staff should stay with the child until the parent arrives, or accompany a child taken to hospital by ambulance. Schools need to ensure they understand the local emergency services cover arrangements and that the correct information is provided for navigation systems.

***At Molescroft Primary School there are many key Health and Safety points. These provide all information required regarding what to do in an emergency, key information, lists of first aiders, contact numbers for vital services e.g. gas, water and electricity and Fire Notices. Staff act as the parent of a child until a parent / grandparent takes over that responsibility. Thus in the absence of a parent / grandparent staff will always remain with a child in an emergency, in an ambulance and at a hospital / medical centre.***

## 12. DAY TRIPS, RESIDENTIAL VISITS AND SPORTING ACTIVITIES

40. Governing bodies should ensure that their 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. Teachers should be aware of how a child's medical condition will impact on their participation, but there should be enough flexibility for all children to participate according to their own abilities and with any reasonable adjustments. Schools should 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.

***It is the first expectation that all children participate in and are included in all aspects of school life. It is expected that activities are differentiated to enable full participation. This includes all sporting activities and school visits.***

41. Schools should consider what reasonable adjustments they might make to enable children with medical needs to participate fully and safely on visits. It is best practice to carry out a risk assessment so that planning arrangements take account of any steps needed to ensure that pupils with medical conditions are included. This will require consultation with parents and pupils and advice from the relevant healthcare professional



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to ensure that pupils can participate safely. Please also see Health and Safety Executive (HSE) guidance on school trips.

- *At Molescroft Primary School, the leader of the residential visit and the Educational Visits Coordinator are responsible for working with the S.E.N.D.Co and Inclusion Manager to ensure the appropriate staff produce the necessary Risk Assessment including the Health Care Plan adapted for the new circumstances of a Residential Visit.*
- *As school visits are a regular feature of life at Molescroft Primary School including the attendance at Sporting Events, provision for these should be included in the original Health Care Plan.*

## 13. OTHER ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Governing bodies may want the school's policy to refer to:

home-to-school transport – this is the responsibility of local authorities, who may find it helpful to be aware of a pupil's individual healthcare plan and what it contains, especially in respect of emergency situations. This may be helpful in developing transport healthcare plans for pupils with life-threatening conditions;

*At Molescroft Primary School a Health Care Plan would be expected to include reference to home-to-school transport and shared with those arranging transport.*

defibrillators – sudden cardiac arrest is when the heart stops beating and can happen to people at any age and without warning. When it does happen, quick action (in the form of early CPR and defibrillation) can help save lives. A defibrillator is a machine used to give an electric shock to restart a patient's heart when they are in cardiac arrest. Modern defibrillators are easy to use, inexpensive and safe. Schools are advised to consider purchasing a defibrillator as part of their first-aid equipment. If schools install a defibrillator for general use, they should notify the local NHS ambulance service of its location. Staff members appointed as first-aiders should already be trained in the use of CPR and may wish to promote these techniques more widely in the school, amongst both teachers and pupils alike;

- *Molescroft Primary School has a defibrillator on the wall next to the reception desk.*



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- asthma inhalers – once regulations are changed, schools will be able to hold asthma inhalers for emergency use. This is entirely voluntary, and the Department of Health is publishing a protocol, which will provide further information.
- *Molescroft Primary School is to take advantage of this new regulation and to provide purple Emergency Asthma Bags, which can be taken on a visit, be carried by staff supporting sporting events and stored at the Medical Centre.*

## 14. UNACCEPTABLE PRACTICE

43. **Governing bodies should ensure that the school's policy is explicit about what practice is not acceptable.** Although school staff should use their discretion and judge each case on its merits 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;
  - *At Molescroft Primary School, parents indicate if they wish inhalers to be kept centrally or to be worn by the child for example within a belt bag. This facilitates immediate administration.*
  - *Children are not allowed to keep inhalers in book bags, which could delay administration. A record file with centrally held inhalers is kept by the medical lockers so all usage can be monitored.*
  - *Medical Lockers for each year group are positioned central to the school in the Staff Room immediately next to the main First Aid Station. All personal medication is kept here. It is under the supervision of the Lead First Aider but easily accessible to staff. Full medical records are kept by the lockers.*
- assume that every child with the same condition requires the same treatment;
- ignore the views of the child or their parents; or ignore medical evidence or opinion (although this may be challenged);
  - *At Molescroft Primary School every child with a Medical Condition will be seen as an individual case and treated as such.*
- send children with medical conditions home frequently or prevent them from staying for normal school activities, including lunch, unless this is specified in their individual healthcare plans;
  - *At Molescroft Primary School it is expected that all children are included in all opportunities and expected to strive for 100% attendance.*



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- if the child becomes ill, send them to the school office or medical room unaccompanied or with someone unsuitable;
  - *At Molescroft Primary School if a child requires medical attention an adult would take the child to the Medical Centre or send for the nearest first aider if it was inappropriate for the child to be moved. There are first aiders attached to every year group.*
  - *A responsible child accompanied by a friend may be expected to present itself to the Medical Centre for a small graze.*
- penalise children for their attendance record if their absences are related to their medical condition, e.g. hospital appointments;
  - *At Molescroft Primary School all medical appointments are authorised, though parents/carers are encouraged wherever possible to arrange these out of learning hours.*
- prevent pupils from drinking, eating or taking toilet or other breaks whenever they need to in order to manage their medical condition effectively;
  - *All children have access to water at any time. No child with a medical condition would be deprived from taking necessary food, breaks or from visiting the toilet.*
  - *Generally speaking all children have open access to the toilets unless the child is deliberately and unnecessarily wasting time with no medical need.*
- require parents, 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; or

*At Molescroft Primary School, the Health Care Plan for a Pupil with a Medical Condition will always ensure that staffing is in place within the school to provide for all medical support including toileting and administration of medicines.*

*This does not include the administration of a short course of medicine for a brief illness. For short-term illnesses requiring a course of antibiotics for example, we request that parents make arrangements for the administration of medicines. It is normally possible for a dose to be given three times a day avoiding the need for a dose during normal school hours. If necessary, we request a parent, or a person designated by the parent, attends the school at the appropriate times to administer the medicine.*

*Whenever there is a long-term requirement for medical support during school time, the school WILL support the child/family. In these circumstances medicines will be administered. This will be agreed in advance to ensure that needs are properly met.*



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- prevent children from participating, or create unnecessary barriers to children participating in any aspect of school life, including school trips, e.g. by requiring parents to accompany the child.
  - *Molescroft Primary is a fully inclusive school. Provision is made for all children to participate in all aspects of school life. Parents are not expected to attend a school visit on which their child is participating. Everything possible is done to ensure any Medical Condition or Disability is accounted for. (Non Medical behavioural issues may result in pupils not being able to take part in extended school provision, if the behaviour of the child poses a risk to the child and/or others).*

## 15. LIABILITY AND INDEMNITY

44. Governing bodies of maintained schools and management committees of PRUs should ensure that the appropriate level of insurance is in place and appropriately reflects the level of risk. Proprietors of academies should ensure that either the appropriate level of insurance is in place or that the academy is a member of the Department for Education's Risk Protection Arrangements (RPA), a scheme provided specifically for academies. It is important that the school policy sets out the details of the school's insurance arrangements, which cover staff providing support to pupils with medical conditions. Insurance policies should be accessible to staff providing such support.

45. Insurance policies should provide liability cover relating to the administration of medication, but individual cover may need to be arranged for any healthcare procedures. The level and ambit of cover required must be ascertained directly from the relevant insurers. Any requirements of the insurance, such as the need for staff to be trained, should be made clear and complied with.

46. In the event of a claim alleging negligence by a member of staff, civil actions are likely to be brought against the employer.

*Molescroft Primary School is fully insured through the East Riding of Yorkshire LA. The insurer will be informed if the school is supporting a pupil at school with a medical condition.*

## 16. COMPLAINTS

47. Governing bodies should ensure that the school's policy sets out how complaints may be made and will be handled concerning the support provided to pupils with medical conditions. Should parents or pupils be dissatisfied with the support provided they should discuss their concerns directly with the school. If for whatever reason this does



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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. In the case of academies, it will be relevant to consider whether the academy has breached the terms of its Funding Agreement 11, or failed to comply with any other legal obligation placed on it. Ultimately, parents (and pupils) will be able to take independent legal advice and bring formal proceedings if they consider they have legitimate grounds to do so.

*At Molescroft Primary School we try very hard to uphold the aims and procedures described in this policy. However, we recognise that despite every effort parents/carers may feel the need to question actions and possibly complain.*

*Initial contact should first be made with the school. Any general complaint that cannot initially be resolved by the class teacher will be passed to the relevant Assistant Head Teachers.*

*If the problem is still unresolved, it will be passed to the Headteacher.*

*Only if the Headteacher is unable to resolve the complaint or the complainant is unwilling to contact the Headteacher should the complainant invoke more formal procedures by contacting the Chair of Governors.*

*The Chair of governors will investigate the matter and respond to the complainant.*

*If the Chair of Governors cannot resolve the matter, the matter will be referred to the Governing Body Complaints Committee. The committee will try to complete the investigation within the time frames set out in the Complaints Policy.*

## 17. MOLESCROFT PRIMARY SCHOOL HEALTHCARE PLAN TEMPLATE

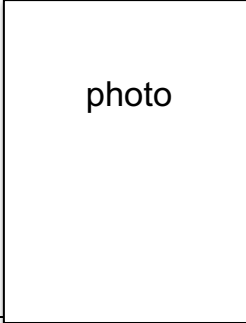


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## Molescroft Primary School Healthcare Plan



Name	
Date of Birth	
Date of creation of plan	
<b>3 named members of staff a supply teacher can approach for further advice</b>	
Parents/Carers and contact details	
Name of member of staff writing and leading on the healthcare plan	
Names and professions of healthcare workers and others involved in the creation of the healthcare plan	
The medical condition, its triggers, signs, symptoms and treatments	
Medication (dose, side effects and storage)	
Other treatments, time, facilities, equipment, testing	
Access to food and drink where this is used to manage their condition	
Dietary requirements	
Environmental issues e.g. crowded corridors, travelling between lessons;	
Specific support for the pupil'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	



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<p>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</p>		
<p>Who will provide this support</p> <p>LIST BELOW</p>	<p>Indicate their training needs, expectations of their role</p>	<p>confirmation of proficiency to provide support for the child's medical condition from a healthcare professional</p>
<p>Cover arrangements for when they are unavailable;</p>		
<p>Who in the school needs to be aware of the child's condition and the support required</p>		
<p>Separate arrangements or procedures required for school trips or other school activities including sporting activities outside of the normal school timetable that will ensure the child can participate, e.g. risk assessments</p>		
<p>Confidentiality issues</p>		
<p>What to do in an emergency</p>		
<p>Written permission from the headteacher for medication to be administered by a member of staff, or self-administered by the pupil during school hours</p>	<p>Signature</p>	
<p>Written permission from parents for medication to be administered by a *member of staff, or *self-administered by the pupil during school hours * delete as appropriate</p>	<p>Signature  Signature</p>	



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Confirmation by parents that they agree to what is written in the healthcare plan.	Signature  Signature
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## Annex A: Model process for developing individual healthcare plans



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