

Supporting Students with Medical Conditions Policy

Date: November 2021
Approved: Academy Committee
Review: November 2022
(or sooner if a change in legislation necessitates a review)

Thornden School aims to support all students with medical conditions, treating students as individuals and responding to a medical condition with the student, their family and medical professionals as appropriate. We aim to provide all students who have a medical condition the same opportunities as others at school.

This policy will be reviewed annually and made available to parents/carers via a link on the school website.

The Head of School is responsible for the implementation of this policy and ensuring that staff are appropriately trained and guided to support students with medical conditions. On a day to day basis the school employs a school registered nurse and a school nurse assistant. The school nurse will directly liaise with students, parents/carers and staff to support students with medical conditions. The school nurse will take an active role in the creation of any individual healthcare plans.

Many students within the school will experience different medical conditions at some point, if these do not impact on school life, details will be kept on SIMS and the school nurse will liaise with parents/carers, staff and students as appropriate, creating a level of support that reflects the condition and needs of the student. Additional information outlining how medication is stored, administered and recorded is available in the policy; Management of medicines in school. Further information about the additional support given to students with diabetes, anaphylaxis risk, epilepsy, asthma and those using crutches is available via their associated protocols.

Individual Healthcare Plans

Some medical conditions are significant, and can be life threatening, with an impact on school life. Others may fluctuate or have an impact upon a young person for a period of time. If students have medical conditions which potentially impact on school life an individual healthcare plan may be appropriate. An individual healthcare plan will be developed by the school in consultation with parents/carers, the student and relevant health care professionals and wider agencies where possible and appropriate, the outcome of which will be a plan that supports the student within school and ensures that appropriate actions are taken by staff.

On an annual basis, the school nurse will review all students in the school with Individual Healthcare Plans. Upon reviewing medical conditions of existing and new students, or in light of information relating to a student that has changed, the development or updating of an individual healthcare plan may be initiated at any point. The development and format of healthcare plans may vary according to the need of the young person and in light of the range of information and support needed.

Staff Training

Whenever possible, medical procedures or the giving of medication will be carried out by the school nurse or school nurse assistant. In their absence or where medical needs dictate, other staff will support students as indicated by either a healthcare plan, the Management of medicines in school policy or a specific arrangement. As the care of students with medical conditions is not the sole responsibility of one person, all staff will receive annual awareness sessions for common and more specific conditions for example; diabetes, asthma, anaphylaxis, epilepsy and heart conditions delivered by healthcare professionals/school nurse. In addition, staff with a first aid certificate will receive further training in diabetes, asthma, anaphylaxis and epilepsy delivered biennially by healthcare professionals/school nurse.

Additional specific training for staff involved in more specialised care of individual students with medical conditions will be carried out as appropriate and necessary by health professionals who are qualified to deliver the training. When specific conditions change or staff need to respond differently, they will be updated via briefing sessions and/or bulletin/email notices to staff.

Any member of staff providing support to students with medical conditions will have received training and guidance suitable for their level of care involvement.

The school ensures all staff understand their duty of care to children and young people in the event of an emergency.

Supporting Students to self-manage their own Medical Needs

The school will work with students, parents and healthcare professionals to encourage and support students in self-managing their condition. Decisions will be made on an individual basis about the level of support required by students to manage any procedures and medication that is required. Where an individual healthcare plan is in place, staff will follow the guidance of the plan although staff will not pressurise students to engage with their procedures or medication. If problems arise, parents will be contacted, if this is an emergency 999 will be called. See Management of medicines in school policy for additional guidance procedures for holding, storing, accessing, administering and recording medication.

School Trips

Students with medical conditions are encouraged to fully participate in all aspects of school life. The school aims to have a first aider on every trip. Dependent on the significance of the medical conditions and the nature and length of the school trip, trip leaders/first aiders will

liaise with the nurse and where appropriate, the parents. Training regarding specific medical conditions will be provided as appropriate by the school nurse. If additional support is required from other healthcare professionals the school nurse will arrange this. If a student has an individual health care plan, this will form the basis of the discussion and will be taken on the trip for guidance. Trip leaders will follow standard school procedures when on the trip.

Good Practice which is followed at Thornden School

As has already been stated, students with medical conditions will be treated as individuals. However, the following is good practice and will form the basis for responding to student needs:

- Students will easily be able to access and administer their medication
- Students will be treated as individuals
- Views of the student, parents and medical professionals will be taken into consideration when looking at how to best support students, both those with healthcare plans and students with more minor conditions
- The school will be inclusive, respond to the needs of students, work with parents and appropriate bodies
- The school will support students with specific healthcare needs to access the medical room
- The school will support students when they need to spend time away from school at medical appointments
- The school will support student needs in terms of eating, drinking, taking breaks and using the toilet when they have medical conditions
- The school will work with parents/carers to find the most effective way of administering medication
- The school will ensure the same opportunities are made available to all students and a medical need does not exclude a student from involvement or participation

Concerns and Complaints

If parents/carers have concerns relating to how medical conditions are being managed, they should contact the Head of School.

This policy is based on statutory guidance documented in the Department of Education policy
“Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions” Dec 2015.

Policy agreed by Academy Committee

Signed

Chair of Academy Committee

Date