

Supporting Children and Young People with Medical Conditions in School: Policy and Implementation Guidance

1. Introduction

Schools have a vital role in ensuring that children and young people with medical conditions are supported in a way that enables them to participate fully in all aspects of school life. This policy sets out how Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Primary School can implement effective support systems, ensuring that children and young people with medical conditions are given the necessary assistance to achieve their full potential.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance on:

- The school's responsibilities in supporting students with medical conditions.
- How to implement the support required in an inclusive and effective manner.
- The importance of communication and collaboration between parents, school staff, healthcare providers, and other relevant agencies.

3. Scope

This guidance applies to all children and young people in the school setting who have a medical condition, including long-term conditions, chronic illnesses, or temporary health issues that may impact their education.

4. Key Principles

- **Equal Access to Education:** Students with medical conditions must have access to the same educational opportunities as their peers.
- **Individualized Care Plans:** Every child with a medical condition should have an individual healthcare plan (IHP) that outlines the medical needs, necessary treatments, and any special educational support required.
- **Collaboration and Communication:** Regular communication between the school, the child's family, healthcare providers, and the child (if appropriate) is essential.
- **Confidentiality and Respect:** School must respect the privacy of students and their families and ensure that medical information is handled sensitively.

5. Roles and Responsibilities

- **School Leadership Team and Governing Body:**
 - Ensure a clear policy is in place for supporting students with medical conditions.
 - Allocate resources to support the implementation of care plans and training for staff.

- Ensure that there is clear communication with all relevant parties, including parents, medical professionals, and local authorities.
- **School Staff:**
 - Be familiar with the medical conditions of students they are working with.
 - Follow the individualized healthcare plans (IHPs) and ensure students' needs are met.
 - Provide appropriate support for students in both the classroom and extracurricular activities.
- **Parents and Carers:**
 - Provide up-to-date medical information and work closely with the school to develop IHPs.
 - Ensure the school has access to any required medication or medical equipment.
- **Students:**
 - Be encouraged to take responsibility for their own health management where possible (depending on their age and ability).
- **Healthcare Providers:**
 - Work with the school to provide expertise and advice on managing the student's medical condition.
 - Offer training for school staff, as needed, for specific medical procedures or interventions.

6. Developing Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs)

IHPs should be developed in collaboration with the student's family, medical professionals, and relevant school staff. The plans will be held centrally on CPOMS with access for all concerned. These plans should include:

- The medical condition and any potential triggers.
- Specific treatments or interventions required (e.g., medications, physical therapy).
- A clear emergency plan (in case of medical emergencies such as allergic reactions or asthma attacks).
- Strategies for ensuring the student can participate in lessons, sports, and other activities.

7. Medical Equipment and Medication

- **Access to Medication:** School should ensure that any required medications (e.g., inhalers, epi-pens) are available to the student during the school day, both in the classroom and during physical activities.
- **Storage and Administration:** Proper storage and safe administration of medication must be ensured. Only designated staff members should be trained to administer certain medications.

8. Training for Staff

School staff, especially those who are in direct contact with students who have medical conditions, should be appropriately trained to manage those conditions. Training might include:

- First aid and emergency response.
- Specific medical procedures (e.g., insulin injections, administering medication).
- How to recognize the signs of a medical emergency or change in a child's condition.

9. Inclusive Participation

Students with medical conditions should be included in all aspects of school life, including field trips, extracurricular activities, and physical education. This may involve:

- Adapting activities where needed to accommodate medical needs.
- Providing alternative arrangements or support to enable participation.

10. Emergency Procedures

School should establish clear procedures for managing medical emergencies:

- A list of students with medical conditions should be readily available to all staff.
- Emergency response protocols should be in place for common medical issues (e.g., seizures, anaphylaxis).
- Regular drills should be conducted to ensure staff are familiar with emergency procedures.

11. Monitoring and Review

It is important to regularly review each student's healthcare plan and adjust it as necessary. The review process should include:

- Assessing the effectiveness of the support provided.
- Updating medical information and strategies as required.
- Engaging with the child and their family to ensure that the plan remains relevant and effective.

12. Conclusion

By implementing this policy and providing appropriate support, Our Lady Immaculate can ensure that children and young people with medical conditions receive the best possible education and care. Effective communication, individualized healthcare plans, and a supportive school environment will allow these students to thrive academically and socially.

13. References

- Department of Education Guidance on Supporting Students with Medical Conditions.
- National Health Service (NHS) resources for schools on health and wellbeing.
- Local Education Authority (LEA) guidelines for schools.
- Supporting pupils with Medical Conditions – September 2014
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice: 0-25 years
- Children and Families Act 2014 – Part 5: 100
- Health and Safety: advice for schools – June 2014
- Equality Act 2010
- The management of Health and Safety at work regulations 1999
- Education Act 1996
- Health and Safety at work Act 1974
- Medicines Act 1968
- For further information and guidance see;
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-pupils-at-school-with-medical-conditions--3/supporting-pupils-with-medical-conditions-links-to-other-useful-resources--2>

This policy should be reviewed regularly and updated as necessary to reflect any changes in legislation, medical practices, or best practices for supporting children with medical conditions.