

Medical Policy

February 2020



THE JO RICHARDSON

SUCCESS FOR ALL

COMMUNITY SCHOOL

ACHIEVE

Aim

The ultimate aim of this policy is to provide for the safeguarding of children as defined by the school's statement on safeguarding children.

Introduction

Most children at some time have a medical condition that could affect their participation in school activities. This may be a short-term situation or a long-term medical condition, which, if not properly managed, could limit their access to education. The Governors and staff of Jo Richardson Community School wish to ensure that children with medical needs receive care and support in our school. We firmly believe children should not be denied access to a broad and balanced curriculum simply because they are on medication or need medical support, nor should they be denied access to school or other activities. The school encourages children with medical conditions to achieve their potential in all aspects of school life by having a clear policy that is understood by school staff and students.

Roles and Responsibilities

The role of the Headteacher and Governing Body

The ultimate responsibility for the management of this policy lies with the Headteacher and Governing Body.

The role of the Student Services and Attendance Manager

The Student Services and Attendance Manager (SSAM) will manage the policy on a day-to-day basis and ensure all procedures and protocols are maintained. The SSAM will work with the Student Services team to ensure accurate and up to date records are kept for students with medical needs.

The role of staff

All staff have a common law 'duty of care' to act like any reasonably prudent parent/carer. This duty extends to staff leading activities taking place off site, such as visits, outings or field trips, and may extend to taking action in an emergency.

Staff who have children with medical needs in their care should understand the nature of the condition, and when and where the child may need extra attention. All staff should be aware of the likelihood of an emergency arising and be aware of the protocols and procedures for specific students in school through attending training provided and reading individual health care plans devised for those students.

The role of parents/carers

Parents/carers have prime responsibility for their child's health and should provide the school with up to date information about their child's medical conditions, treatment and/or any special care needed. If their child has a more complex medical condition, they should work with the school or other health professionals to develop an individual healthcare plan, which will include an agreement on the role of the school in managing any medical needs and potential emergencies. It is the parents/carers' responsibility to make sure that their child is well enough to attend school.

Identification

Upon entry to school, parent/carers will be asked to complete admission forms requesting medical information. Throughout the year we request through our newsletter that parents keep us up to date with any changes in medical information. We also annually send out data sheets for parents/carers to check and amend to ensure all our records are up to date.

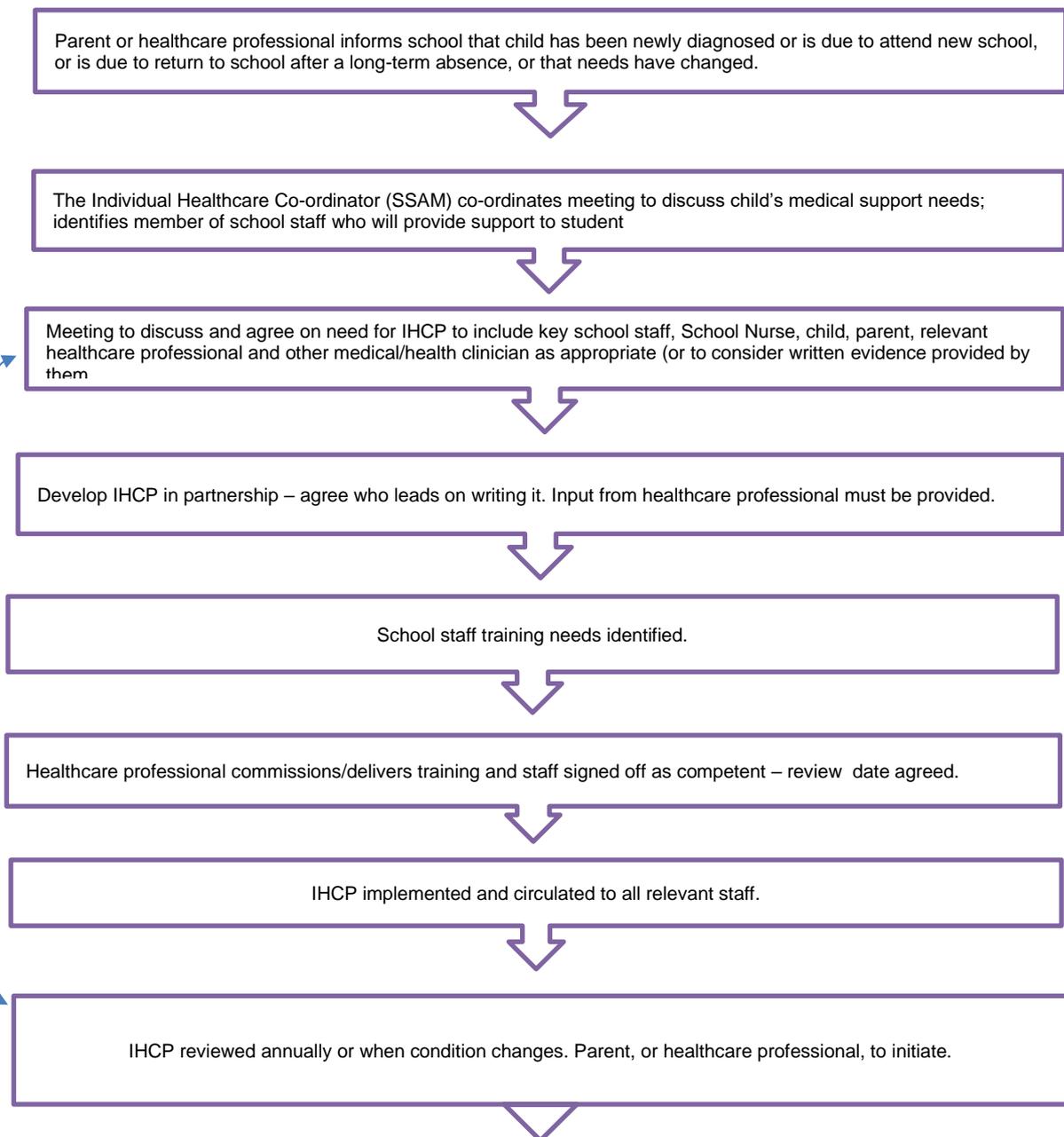
Individual Health Care Plans (IHCP)

Some conditions will require the production of an IHCP that is produced by the allocated School Nurse and SSAM. The main purpose of an IHCP is to identify the level of support that is needed at school for those students. The IHCP clarifies for staff, parents/carers and the child the help the school can provide and receive. These plans will be reviewed annually as a minimum, or more frequently at the request of parents/carers or the school, or as required.

An IHCP will include:

- details of the child's condition
- what constitutes an emergency
- what action to take in an emergency
- what not to do in the event of an emergency
- whom to contact in an emergency
- the role that staff can play
- special requirements, eg, dietary needs, pre-activity precautions
- any side effects of medicines

A copy will be given to parents/carers and a copy will be retained in the medical needs file in the student's personal file.



Communicating Needs

The SSAM sends out medical alert emails at regular intervals throughout the year updating staff of students' needs together with any emergency action that may be required. An overview medical alert notice of children with IHCPs and a summary of their conditions can be found in staff shared resources areas.

First Aid

We have a number of school staff who are trained 'first-aiders'. In the event of illness or accident during the school day students will report/be forwarded to the Student Services department in the first instance, staff there will provide appropriate first aid. In the event of a more serious accident, we will contact the parent/carer as soon as possible. If hospital treatment is required and a parent/carer is not available, a member of staff will take the student to hospital and stay with the student until the parent/carer arrives. If the student is required to travel in an ambulance, a member of staff will accompany the child in the ambulance if their parent/carer is unavailable. Parents are expected to have adequate arrangements in place to collect their child from school if they are unwell during the school day and in case of emergency.

Details of accidents/incidents are recorded in the Accident Book together with any treatment provided. Major incidents/accidents are recorded on the Accident/Incident Report Form and circulated to HR.

Physical activity

We recognise that most children with medical needs can participate in physical activities and extra-curricular sport. Any restrictions on a student's ability to participate in PE or specific physical activities should be recorded in their IHCP. All staff should be aware of issues of privacy and dignity for students with particular needs.

School visits

When preparing risk assessments, staff will consider any reasonable adjustments they might make to enable a student with medical needs to participate fully and safely on visits. Sometimes additional safety measures may need to be taken for off site visits and it may be that an additional staff member, a parent/carer or other volunteer might be needed to accompany a particular student. Arrangements for taking any medicines will need to be planned as part of the risk assessment and visit planning process. Trip leaders are provided with relevant information regarding students with medical conditions.

Residential visits

Parent/carers of students participating in residential visits will need to complete a consent form giving details of all medical/dietary needs. Administration of medicine forms need to be completed prior to the day of departure and all medication that needs to be administered during the course of the visit should be handed directly to the group leader before leaving the school at the start of the visit. Trip leaders are provided with relevant information regarding students with medical conditions.

Administration of medicines

The Headteacher will accept responsibility for members of appointed school staff giving or supervising children taking prescribed medication during the school day.

Parents are requested to complete an Administration of Medicines Consent Form when handing in the medicine. Medication must be provided in its original pharmacy labelled container clearly displaying the following.

- Child's name
- Child's date of birth
- Name of medication
- Dosage
- Frequency of dosage
- Date of dispensing
- Storage requirements (if necessary)
- Expiry date

Medication will not be accepted without a completed Administration of Medicines Consent Form with clear instructions as to administration, nor will it be accepted in an unlabelled container.

The SSAM will consider in each case the nature of the medication to be administered, any potential risks and all other relevant information before deciding whether the medicine can be administered in school.

Where there is concern about whether the school can meet a student's needs, the SSAM should seek advice from the school nurse, the child's GP or other medical adviser.

At JRCS we encourage, where appropriate, students to self-administer medication, some under staff supervision. In deciding whether to permit this, the SSAM will take into account the nature of the medication, the age of the student and the safety of other students. Students are permitted to carry on their person only one dose of the required medication in schools.

Staff who assist in the administration of medication must receive appropriate training/guidance identified by the SSAM in liaison with health professionals and parents.

Medication is kept in a lockable cabinet or refrigerator (dependant on the storage instructions) within Student Services Department.

If students refuse to take medication, the staff should not force them to do so. The school should inform the student's parent/carer as a matter of urgency and should call the emergency services if deemed necessary.

Parent/carers are advised that it is their responsibility to notify the school of any changes to a child's medication. Parents/carers should also inform the school of any other circumstances that may affect the administration of medication or of the child's reaction to the medication.

Anaphylaxis, Asthma, Diabetes, Eczema, Epilepsy and Sickle Cell

The school recognises that these are common conditions affecting many children and young people, and welcomes all children with these conditions.

The school believes that every child has a right to participate fully in the curriculum and life of the school, including all outdoor activities and residential trips. The school ensures that all staff in the school have a good understanding of these conditions through relevant training and do not discriminate against any child who is affected.

Anaphylaxis

Anaphylaxis can be triggered by foods (nuts, shellfish, dairy products) or non-foods (wasp and bee stings, certain medicines, even exercise). The symptoms of anaphylaxis can be identified by effects on the respiratory system, cardiovascular system, gastrointestinal system, skin, nervous system and genitourinary system. In the event of an attack, it is important to administer an epipen as soon as possible and then call for an ambulance.

How will staff know which children might need an Adrenaline Auto-Injectors?

Photographs of all children needing Adrenaline Auto-Injectors are circulated regularly by email and can be found in all staff bases. Individual Health Care Plans are kept on the student's main school file in the Office. Staff who come into contact with these students are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the plans.

How will staff know when and how to administer Adrenaline Auto-Injectors?

There will be annual training sessions for all staff.

Where are Adrenaline Auto-Injectors stored?

Adrenaline Auto-Injectors are stored in the Student Services office. Each child has an emergency bag hanging on a peg containing two Adrenaline Auto-Injectors, a copy of their IHCP, any other relevant medication, a pencil, paper and a pair of gloves. Each bag is labelled with the student's name. It is a parent's responsibility to ensure that the Adrenaline Auto-Injector is kept up to date.

Asthma

Asthma medicines

Immediate access to reliever medicines is essential so students are encouraged to carry and administer their own inhalers at all times. It is the responsibility of parents/carers to ensure students have an up to date inhaler at all times, clearly labelled with the student's

name. An emergency Asthma medication pack is kept at the school's Student Services Department and will only be administered to students in an emergency situation. Students with severe asthma have their photos circulated on the medical alert email. If a student is not carrying their required medication on school trips they may not be able to take part.

Record keeping

If a student requires support with administering their asthma pump while suffering symptoms, parents will be notified immediately.

PE, games and activities, including pre-school and after-school clubs

Taking part in sports, games, activities and clubs is an essential part of school life for all students. Staff are aware of those students who have asthma from the school's medical alert emails. Students with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in all PE lessons. Staff will remind students whose asthma is triggered by exercise, to take their reliever inhaler with them to the lesson and to thoroughly warm up and down before and after the lesson. Staff follow the same principles as described above for games, activities and clubs involving physical activity. Staff need to be aware of the potential triggers for children with asthma when exercising, tips to minimise these triggers and what to do in the event of an asthma attack.

The school environment

The school does all that it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to students with asthma. As far as possible, the school does not use chemicals in science and art lessons that are potential triggers for children with asthma. If, however, particular fumes do trigger their asthma, students are removed from the classroom by an adult and taken to sit in the Student Services Department, where they can be supervised until fully recovered.

Asthma attacks

In the event of a student having an asthma attack:

- If at all possible, take the child to Student Services
- Stay calm and reassure the student
- Encourage the student to breathe slowly
- Ensure that any tight clothing is loosened
- Help the student to take their reliever (blue) inhaler
- Usually 2-4 puffs are enough to bring the symptoms of a mild attack under control. This medication is very safe; do not be afraid to give more if it is needed
- Inform the Student Services team immediately

Always call for an ambulance if any of the following occur:

- There is no significant improvement in 5 – 10 minutes
- The student is distressed and gasping or struggling to breath
- The student has difficulty in speaking more than a few words at a time
- The student is pale, sweaty and may be blue around the lips
- The student is showing signs of fatigue or exhaustion
- The student is exhibiting a reduced level of consciousness

Whilst the ambulance is on its way:

- The student should continue to take puffs of their reliever (blue) inhaler until the symptoms improve
- If the student has a spacer device and reliever (blue) inhaler available, give up to ten puffs, one puff every minute (shaking the inhaler between each puff)
- If the student's condition is not improving and the ambulance has not arrived, repeat the process in the previous bullet point
- Contact the parents/carers once the emergency situation is under control and the ambulance has been called

Please also see the separate Asthma Policy.

Diabetes

We recognise that diabetes should not be taken lightly because it is a very serious condition and could result in a hypoglycaemia attack (hypo) where blood sugar levels become too low, or a hyperglycaemia attack (hyper) where blood sugar levels become too high. Prompt medical attention will then be required to rectify the chemical and sugar imbalance in the blood. Students who are diabetic need supervision and careful monitoring so that staff are aware of any changes in the child and are able to take immediate action if they should need to. All students with diabetes have their own IHCP and their details are recorded on the student's file. Student Services also have an emergency box labelled with their name containing any relevant equipment required to control a hypo or hyper attack.

Eczema

We are aware that active (acute) eczema causes constant itching and can mean sleepless nights and daytime drowsiness. We recognise that children who suffer with eczema may need the support of school staff to help them deal with this condition and that they may need help to apply emollients.

Epilepsy seizures

In the event of a student having an epileptic seizure:

- Stay calm
- Send for a member of the Student Services team
- If the student is convulsing, then put something soft under their head
- Protect the child from injury (remove harmful objects from nearby)
- NEVER try and put anything in their mouth or between their teeth
- Try to time how long the seizure lasts – if it lasts longer than usual for that child or continues for more than five minutes, then call medical assistance
- When the child finishes their seizure, stay with them and reassure them
- Do not give them food or drink until they have fully recovered from the seizure
- Contact the parents/carers once the emergency situation is under control

Sickle Cell

There can be serious complications from sickle cell crisis for a sufferer. Please follow the next few points when dealing with students with sickle cell.

- Always take their word if they say they are breathless or seem lethargic
- They know only to work to their ability
- Send them to Student Services if they are asking to sit out or complaining of any symptoms
- Clothes must be suitable for the exercise; indoor/outdoor cold has an impact on their ability
- Call for Student Services or seek medical advice if there is any deterioration in the student's condition.

Students in school with injuries requiring casts/crutches

Students will be encouraged to attend school at all times. Only crutches issued by the hospital can be used in school. Students wearing a sling or using crutches will need to use the lift in school to avoid the crowds on the staircases. They will be issued with a lift pass and their form tutor will buddy them with a friend to support getting around the school. Students with casts on are not allowed to play in any of the ball courts at break times.

Head lice

Any case of head lice should be reported to the Student Services Department. Parent/carers will be advised on an appropriate course of action as advised by the local health authority.

Infectious Diseases

Information concerning the control of infectious diseases is available through the local authorities and is produced in conjunction with the Health Protection Agency www.hpa.org.uk. A hard copy of the Control of Infections in Schools document can be found in the Student Services Department.

Staff training

The school is responsible for ensuring that staff have appropriate training to support students with medical needs. Specific training and staff awareness sessions are held for students with highly individual needs prior to the child joining the school. Arrangements are made with appropriate agencies to update staff training on a regular basis. Teaching and support staff are invited to attend epipen training annually.

Confidentiality

Staff must always treat medical information confidentially. With certain medical conditions, sharing of information is always recommended for the safety of the student. Agreement should be reached between parent/carers and the school about who else should have access to records and other information about a student and this will be detailed in their Individual Health Care Plan.

If information is withheld from staff, they will not generally be held responsible if they act incorrectly in giving medical assistance but otherwise in good faith.

Other agencies

The school nurse, paediatrician or other specialist bodies may be able to provide additional background information for school staff. Any requests or referral to these services will only be made with parental consent.

Supplementary information

This policy is supplemented by the Health and Safety Policy (including First Aid) and the Asthma Policy.

Monitoring and evaluation

Staff and Governors, on a three yearly basis, will review this policy unless circumstances demand an earlier review.