

Medical Needs Policy



2020/21



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Statutory/Non-Statutory: Statutory
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*Cantell – An exceptional school experience:
Academic excellence / Exciting teaching & learning
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In September 2014, a new section of the Children and Families Act 2014 placed a duty on schools to make arrangements for supporting students at the school with medical needs. The aim is to ensure that all students with medical conditions are properly supported in schools, so that they can play a full and active role in school life, remain healthy and achieve their academic potential. Students with medical conditions cannot be denied admission or excluded from school on medical grounds alone, unless accepting a student in school would be detrimental to the health of that student or others.

At Cantell School we:

- Believe that all students at school with medical conditions should be properly supported so that they have full access to education, including school trips and physical education.
- Will put in place arrangements to support students in school with medical conditions.
- Consult with health and social care professionals, students and parents to ensure that the needs of students with medical conditions are effectively supported.
- Want parents to feel confident that their child's medical condition will be supported effectively in school and that they will be safe.
- Will address any associated social and emotional implications in addition to the educational impacts a student with additional medical needs may experience.

It is recognised that some students with medical conditions may also be disabled. Some may also have a Special Educational Need (SEN) and a Statement or Educational Health and Care Plan (EHC Plan). For students with SEN this policy should also be read in conjunction with the SEN policy and Code of Practice.

Responsibilities

Governors

The Governing Body has overall responsibility for school policies and recognises that they must comply with their duties under the Equality Act 2010, in addition to those in the Children and Families Act 2014, by making sure that arrangements are in place to support students with medical needs, including the appropriate level of insurance being in place to cover staff providing support to students with medical conditions.

Headteacher

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that policies are implemented effectively and that all relevant staff are aware of the student's condition and that the information will be treated in confidence and in a sensitive manner. (This responsibility may be delegated). They should also ensure that there are sufficient numbers of trained staff available to provide the necessary care and that the school is insured to support students in this way.

School

Any member of Cantell School staff may volunteer, or be asked, to provide support to students with medical conditions, including the administering of medicines, although they cannot be

required to do so. The school will ensure that there are enough trained staff on site to provide medical care and ensure appropriate storage of medication as and when needed.

School Nurse and other qualified health care professionals including GPs and paediatricians

Health Care professionals are responsible for notifying schools when a student has been identified as having a medical condition, which will require the student to be supported in school. They will work with the school to determine the training needs of school staff and agree who would be best placed to provide this training, as well as supporting them in drawing up a care plan, which will identify all the medical needs of the individual and how best to support this.

Local Authorities (LA)

The LA is the commissioner of School Nurses. Under Section 10 of the Children Act 2004, they have a duty to promote co-operation between relevant partners with a view to improving the well-being of students. They also provide support, advice and guidance to ensure that a healthcare plan can be delivered effectively, particularly for those students with a statement of special educational need or EHC Plan.

Parent/Carers

Parents know their children best and they have a wealth of knowledge about their child that nobody else has. Their input into care plans and medical healthcare plans is invaluable.

It is the Parent/Carer's responsibility to ensure that any children who are ill are kept at home. Parent/Carers should provide sufficient reliable contact numbers for use in case of emergency or illness.

Students

Students will be fully involved in discussions about their medical support needs and will contribute as much as possible to the development of their individual healthcare plan, since they know how their condition affects them.

Some students are competent to manage their own health needs and medicines. The school, after discussion with the parents, child and other relevant healthcare professionals, will encourage such students to take responsibility for managing their own medicines. This will be reflected in their individual healthcare plans.

Procedures and Actions

Specialist medical support

Where a student is in need of specialist medical assistance e.g. medical disability, anaphylaxis, asthma (where a prescribed inhaler is required in school), etc. a care plan will be drawn up in consultation with the students, parents and relevant medical health care professionals. It is proposed that this would be done as quickly as possible, preferably within no more than two weeks of the student first arriving at Cantell School, or notification of the medical need and will be reviewed at least annually, or in the case of changing medical needs more often as required.

Prescribed and/or non-prescribed medicines

Where a student needs to take medically prescribed medicines or some over the counter medications during the school day, support will be provided to ensure that the correct dose is taken.

- Parents will be required to complete a form which will also ensure that a written record of administered medicines is maintained.
- The medicine provided will be kept in a locked cabinet, or medicines, such as asthma inhalers, will be carried by students themselves.
- The medicine will only be administered provided:
 - it is prescribed in the student's name (in the case of prescribed medicines), or has a label on identifying the name of the student to whom it belongs, for over the counter medicines e.g. piriton
 - it is presented in the original packaging
 - there are clear storage instructions
 - in accordance with the dosage instructions thereon, and
 - it is within date

When on school trips, the relevant medication will also be taken.

Emergency procedures

All care plans will determine what constitutes an emergency and what to do in such an event. If a student needs to be taken to hospital, a member of staff will accompany them and stay with the student until the parent arrives.

Unacceptable practice

Although staff will use their discretion and judge each case on its merits, generally it is not acceptable for schools to:

- Assume that every student with the same condition requires the same medication/treatment.
- Ignore the views of the student or the parents.
- Prevent students with medical conditions from accessing normal school activities.
- Penalise students for their attendance record if their absences are related to their medical conditions e.g. medical appointments.
- Prevent students from eating, drinking and going to the toilet when they need to, in order to manage their medical condition effectively.

Complaints

If a parent feels that their child's medical need is not being fully met, they are encouraged to discuss this further with the SENCo or Headteacher. Making a complaint to the Local Authority or Department for Education should only happen after all other avenues have been explored.

Medicines containing aspirin should never be given to a student under 16 unless specifically prescribed by a GP.