

Pontesbury CE Primary School



Serious Medical Condition Policy (Asthma, Anaphylaxis & Diabetes)

**Reviewed: October 2024
Due for Review: October 2026**

Serious Medical Condition Policy Statement

- This school is an inclusive community that aims to support and welcome pupils with a serious medical condition.
- The school ensures all staff understand their duty of care to children and young people in the
- event of an emergency and all staff feel confident in knowing what to do or who to call upon in an emergency
- This school understands asthma, anaphylaxis and diabetes are serious and can be potentially life threatening, particularly if ill managed or misunderstood
- All school staff receives annual asthma and anaphylaxis awareness training.

Policy Framework

- The school's serious medical condition policy is drawn up in consultation with a wide range of local key stakeholders within both the school and health settings.
- This school has clear guidance on the administration of medicines at school
- This school has clear guidance on the storage of medicines at school
- This school has clear guidance about record keeping
- Each member of the school and health community know their roles and responsibilities in maintaining and implementing an effective medical condition policy. This policy is regularly reviewed evaluated and updated.

Policy Guidelines

School staff are informed and regularly reminded about the serious medical condition policy

- at the start of year school health plans are distributed to parents
- at the scheduled medical condition session training
- the key principles of the policy are displayed in several prominent staff areas at this school
- all supply and temporary staff are informed of the policy and their responsibilities

Parents and Pupils are informed about the serious medical condition policy

- at the start of the school year when communication is sent about school health plans
- when their child is enrolled as a new pupil

All staff receive asthma, anaphylaxis and diabetes awareness training and are trained in what to do in an emergency or in the case of diabetic emergencies know which staff members to call on.

- Staff at this school understand their duty of care to pupils in the event of an emergency. In an emergency situation school staff are required under common law duty of care, to act like any reasonably prudent parent. This may include administering medicines.
- All staff who work with children at this school receive training and know what to do in an emergency for the children in their care with asthma and anaphylaxis. A team of staff are trained to provide medical support to children with diabetes as per their care plan and all staff have completed the basic diabetes training that helps them identify triggers for hypoglycaemia and hyperglycaemia.
- Training is refreshed for all staff at least once a year

- Action for staff to take in an emergency, are displayed in prominent locations for **all** staff including classrooms, kitchens and the staff room.
- This school uses asthma care plans and healthcare plans to inform the appropriate staff (including supply teachers and support staff), of pupils in their care who may need emergency help.
- This school has procedures in place for a copy of the pupil's health care plan to be sent to the emergency care setting with the pupil. On occasions when this is not possible, the form is sent or the information on it is communicated to the hospital as soon as possible.
- If a pupil needs to be taken to hospital, a member of staff will always accompany them and will stay with them until a parent arrives. The school tries to ensure that the staff member will be one the pupil knows. Generally, staff should not take pupils to hospital in their own car.

Administration - emergency medicines

- All school staff have been informed through training that they are required, under common law duty of care, to act like any reasonably prudent parent. In an emergency situation, this may include taking action such as administering medicines.
- All pupils at this school with asthma, anaphylaxis and diabetes have **easy access to their emergency medicines**.
- All pupils are encouraged to carry and administer their own emergency medicine, when their parents and health specialists determine they are able to start taking responsibility for their condition.
- Pupils who do not carry and administer their own emergency medicines, should know where their medicines are stored and how to gain access

Administration - non-emergency medicine

- All staff are aware that there is no legal or contractual duty for any member of staff to administer medicine or supervise a pupil taking medicines unless they have been specifically contracted to do so.
- Many members of staff are happy to take on the voluntary role of administering medicines may administer prescribed and non-prescribed medicines to pupils under the age of 16, but only with the written consent of the parent.
- Training is given to all staff members who administer medicines to pupils and the Local Education Authority provides full indemnity
- If a pupil refuses their medicine, staff should record this. Parents or carers should be informed as soon as possible.
- If a pupil needs supervision or access to medicine during home to school transport organised by the local authority, properly trained escorts are provided. All drivers and escorts who have the same training as staff, know what to do in a medical emergency and are aware of any pupils in their care who have specific needs. If they are expected to supervise or administer emergency medication then they are properly trained.
- All staff attending off site visits should be aware of any pupils on the visit with a serious medical condition. They should receive information about what to do in an emergency and any other additional support necessary, including any additional medicines or equipment needed.
- If a pupil misuses medicines, either their own or another pupils, their parents will be informed as soon as possible and they will be subject to the school's usual disciplinary procedures

Safe storage - emergency medicine (inhalers, EpiPens and insulin)

- Emergency medicines are readily available to pupils who require them at all times during the school day or at off site activities
- Most pupils at this school carry their emergency medicine on them at all times. Pupils keep their own emergency medicines securely or know where it is securely kept..
- Pupils are reminded to carry take their emergency medicines with them at all times.
- Pupils, whose healthcare professionals and parents advise the school that their child is not yet able or old enough to self manage and carry their own emergency medicines on them, know exactly where to access their emergency medicines.

Safe storage – general

- There is an identified member of staff who ensures the correct storage of medicines at school
- Three times a year the identified member of staff checks the expiry dates for all medicines stored at school
- The identified member of staff along with the parent of the pupil with a serious medical condition ensures that all emergency and non-emergency medicines brought to school are clearly labelled with the pupil's name, the name and dose of the medicine and the frequency of dose. This includes medicines that all pupils carry themselves.
- All medicines are supplied and stored, wherever possible, in their original containers. All medicines need to be labelled with the pupils name, the name of the medicine, expiry date and the prescriber's instructions for administration, including dose and frequency.
- Medicines are stored in accordance with instructions paying particular note to temperature
- Some medicines for pupils at this school may need to be refrigerated. All refrigerated medicines are stored in an airtight container and are clearly labelled. Refrigerators used for medicine storage are in a secure area inaccessible to pupils without supervision or lockable as appropriate.
- All medicines are sent home with pupils at the end of the school year. Medicines are not stored in summer holidays
- It is the parent's responsibility to ensure new and in date medicines come into school on the first day of the new academic year.

Safe disposal

- Parents are asked to collect out of date medicines.
- If parents do not pick up out of date medicines or at the end of the school year medicines are taken to a local pharmacy for safe disposal
- A named member of staff is responsible for checking the dates of medicines and arranging for the disposal of those that have expired. This check is done at least three times a year.

Admission forms

- Parents at this school are asked if their child has any health conditions or health issues on the enrolment form, which is filled out at the start of each school year. Parents of new pupils starting at other times during the year are also asked to provide this information on enrolment forms.

Drawing up health care plans (children with anaphylaxis and/or diabetes)

- This school uses an *asthma care plan* or *health care plan* to record important details about individual children's medical needs, **their triggers**, signs, symptoms, medicines
- A school health care plan accompanied by an explanation is sent to all parents of pupils with a serious medical condition at the start of the school year, at enrolment or when a diagnosis is first communicated to the school.
- The parents, and / or doctor (or health specialist), are asked to fill out the pupil's school health plan. Parents then return these completed forms to the school.

Ongoing communication and review of health care plans

- Parents at this school are regularly reminded to update their child's health care plan if their child has a medical emergency or if there have been changes to their symptoms (getting better or worse) or their medicines and treatments change.
- Every pupil with a health care plan at this school has their plan discussed and renewed at least once year.

Storage and access to health care plans

- Parents and pupils at this school are provided with a copy of the pupil's current agreed health care plan.
- Health care plans are saved on the SharePoint and Asthma Care Plans are in a folder in the school office.
- All members of staff who work with groups of pupils, have access to the health care plans of pupils in their care.
- When a member of staff is new to a pupil group, for example due to staff absence, the school makes sure that they are made aware of (and have access to) the health care plans of pupils in their care.
- The school ensures that **all staff** protect pupil confidentiality.
- This school seeks permission from parents to allow the health care plan to be sent ahead to emergency care staff should an emergency happen during school hours or at an out of school hours, school activity.
- This school seeks permission from the pupil and parents before sharing any medical information with any other party, such as when a pupil takes part in a work experience placement.

Use of health care plans

This school uses the health care plans to:

- Inform the appropriate staff and supply teachers about the individual needs of a pupil with a medical condition in their care
- Remind pupils with a serious medical condition to take their medicines when they need to and to keep their emergency medicines with them at all times
- Identify common or important individual pupil triggers at school that bring on symptoms and can cause emergencies. This school uses this information to help reduce the impact of common triggers.
- Ensure that all medicines stored at school are within the expiry date
- Ensure this school's local emergency care facilities have a timely and accurate summary of a pupil's current serious medical condition management and healthcare in the event of an emergency.
- Remind parents of pupils with serious medical conditions to ensure that any medicines kept at school for their child are within their expiry dates. This includes spare medicines.

Consent to administer medicines

- If a child requires regular prescribed or non-prescribed medicines at school parents are asked to provide consent on the healthcare plan giving staff permission to administer medicines on a **regular/daily basis**, if required. A separate form is available for short programmes of medicine if parents and school require it.
- All parents of pupils with a serious medical condition are asked to provide consent on the health care plan giving staff permission to administer medicines **in an emergency**.
- If a child requires regular/daily help in administering their medicines then **the school** outlines the school's agreement to administer those medicine/s on the health care plan. The school and parents keep a copy of this agreement.
- Parents of pupils with a serious medical condition at this school are all asked at the start of the school year on the healthcare plan if they and/or the child's healthcare professional believe the child is able to self manage, carry and administer their own emergency medicines.

Medicine form for residential trips

Parents are sent a medicine form to be completed and returned to school shortly before their child leaves for an overnight or extended day trip. This form requests up to date information about the pupil's current condition and their overall health. This provides up to date information to relevant staff and school supervisors to help the pupil manage their condition while they are away including information about medicines not normally taken during school hours.

- The medicines form is taken by the relevant staff member to the off site trip and for all out of school hours activities along with a copy of the pupil's health care plan
- All parents of pupils with a serious medical condition attending a school trip or overnight visit are asked for consent, giving staff permission to administer medicines at night or in the morning if required.
- The medical form also details what medicines and what dose the pupil is currently taking at different times of the day. It helps to provide up-to-date information to relevant staff and supervisors to help the pupil manage their condition while they are away.

Other record keeping

This school keeps an accurate record of each occasion an individual pupil is given or supervised taking medicines. Details of the supervising staff member, pupil, dose, date and time are recorded. If a pupil refuses to have medicines administered, this is also recorded and parents are informed as soon as possible

Staff Training - record keeping

This school holds training on asthma and anaphylaxis once a year. All staff attending receive a certificate confirming the type of training they have had. A log of the medical condition training is kept by the school and reviewed every 12 months to ensure all new staff receive training. All school staff who volunteer or are contracted to administer medicines are provided with training by a healthcare professional. The school keeps a register of staff that has had the relevant training.

- This school keeps an up to date list of members of staff who have agreed to administer medicines and have received the relevant training.

We ensure that the whole school environment, which includes physical, social, sporting and educational activities, is inclusive and favourable to pupils with a serious medical condition

Physical Environment

- This school is committed to providing pupils with a physical environment, which is accessible to pupils with a serious medical condition.
- This school's commitment to an accessible physical environment includes out of school visits and the school ensures these visits are accessible to all pupils. The school recognises that this sometimes means changing activities or locations.

Social interactions

- This school ensures the needs of children and young people with a serious medical condition are adequately considered to ensure their involvement in structured and unstructured social activities during breaks and before and after school.
- This school ensures the needs of children and young people with a serious medical condition are adequately considered to ensure they have full access to extended school activities such as school discos, school productions, after school clubs and residential visits.
- All staff at this school are aware of the potential social problems that pupils with a serious medical condition may experience. Staff use this knowledge to try to prevent and deal with problems in accordance with the school's anti bullying and behaviour policies.
- Staff use opportunities such as personal, social and health education (PSHE) lessons to raise awareness of asthma, anaphylaxis and diabetes amongst pupils and to help create a positive social environment.

Sport and physical activity

- This school understands the importance of all pupils taking part in sports, games and activities.
- This school ensures all classroom teachers; sport coaches and PE teachers make appropriate adjustments to sports, games and activities to make physical activity accessible to all pupils.
- This school ensures all classroom teachers; PE teachers and sporting coaches understand that pupil's with a serious medical condition should not be forced to take part in activity if they feel unwell.
- Teachers and coaches are aware of pupils in their care who have been advised to avoid or to take special precautions with particular activities.
- This school ensures all PE teachers, classroom teachers and school sport coaches are aware of the potential triggers for pupil's asthma or diabetes when exercising and tips to minimise these triggers.
- This school ensures all pupils have the appropriate medicines or food with them during physical activity and that pupils take them when needed.
- This school ensures all pupils with a serious medical condition are actively encouraged to take part in out of school clubs and team sports.

Education and learning

- This school ensures that pupils with a serious medical condition can participate fully in all aspects of the curriculum and ensures that the appropriate adjustments and extra support is provided.
- If a pupil is missing a lot of time at school, they have limited concentration or they are frequently tired, all teachers at this school understand that this may be due to their condition.

Residential trips

- Risk assessments must be carried out for any out of school visit and asthma, anaphylaxis and diabetes must be considered during this process. Factors to consider include how all pupils will be able to access the activities proposed, how routine and emergency medicines will be stored and administered and where help could be obtained in an emergency.
- There may be additional medicines, equipment or factors to consider when planning residential visits. These may be in addition to any medicines, facilities and healthcare plans that are normally available in school. These normally available facilities should be available during any school off site activity

Each member of the school and health community know their roles and responsibilities in maintaining an effective medical condition policy

This school works in partnership with all interested and relevant parties including the school's governing body, all school staff, school nurses, parents, employers of school staff, healthcare professionals and pupils to ensure the policy is planned, implemented and maintained successfully. The following roles and responsibilities are used for the serious medical condition policy at this school. These roles are understood and communicated regularly:

This school's employer has a responsibility to:

- Ensure the health and safety of their employees (all staff) and anyone else on the premises or taking part in school activities (this includes pupils). This responsibility extends to those staff and others leading activities taking place off site, such as visits, outings or field trips.
- Ensure health and safety policies and risk assessments are inclusive of the needs of pupils with a serious medical condition.
- Make sure the serious medical condition policy is effectively monitored and regularly updated.
- Provide indemnity for teachers who volunteer to administer medicine to pupils with a serious medical condition.

This school's head teacher has a responsibility to:

- Ensure the school is inclusive and welcoming and that the serious medical condition policy is in line with local and national guidance and policy frameworks
- Liaise between interested parties –including pupils, school staff, SEN coordinators, Welfare assistants, teaching assistants, school nurses, parents, governors, the school health service, the local authority transport service, and local emergency care services.
- Ensure that information held by the school is accurate and up to date and that there are good information sharing systems in place using pupils individual health plans.
- Ensure pupil confidentiality

- Assess the training and development needs of staff and arrange for them to be met
- Ensure all supply teachers and new staff know the serious medical condition policy
- Delegate a staff member to check the expiry date of medicines kept at school and maintain the school asthma register
- Monitor and review the policy at least once a year, with input from staff and external stakeholders.

All staff at this school has a responsibility to:

- Be aware of the potential triggers, signs and symptoms of asthma, anaphylaxis, and diabetes and know what to do in an emergency.
- Understand the school's serious medical condition policy
- Know which pupils have asthma, anaphylaxis and diabetes and be familiar with the content of their individual health plan.
- Allow all pupils to have immediate access to their emergency medicines
- Maintain effective communication with parents including informing them if their child has been unwell at school.
- Ensure pupils who carry their medicines with them, have them when they go on a school trip or out of the classroom
- Be aware that long term conditions can affect a pupil's learning and provide extra help when pupils need it.
- Be aware of pupils with a serious medical condition who may be experiencing bullying or need extra social support
- Liaise with parents, the child's healthcare professionals, special educational needs coordinator and welfare officers if a child is falling behind with their work because of their condition
- Use opportunities such as PSHE to raise pupil awareness about asthma, anaphylaxis and diabetes.
- Understand asthma and diabetes and the impact it can have on pupils. (Pupils should not be forced to take part in activity if they feel unwell)
- Ensure all pupils with a serious medical condition are not excluded from activities they wish to take part in
- Ensure pupils have the appropriate medicines with them during activity or exercise and are allowed to take it when needed.

The school nurse has a responsibility to:

- Help update the school's medical condition policy
- Help provide regular training for school staff in managing a serious medical condition at school
- Provide information about where the school can access training in areas that the school nurse has not had specialist training.
- Provide support and information to the identified member of staff responsible for ensuring that parents complete the health care plans

The parents at this school have a responsibility to:

- Tell the school if their child has asthma, anaphylaxis or diabetes
- Ensure the school has a complete and up-to-date school healthcare plan for their child

- Inform the school about the medicines their child requires during school hours
- Inform the school of any medicines the child requires while taking part in visits, outings or field trips and other out-of-school activities such as school team sports
- Tell the school about any changes to their child's medicines, what they take and how much
- Inform the school of any changes to their child's condition
- Ensure their medicines and medical devices are labelled with their full name
- Provide the school with appropriate spare medicines labelled with their child's name
- Ensure that their child's medicines are within their expiry dates
- Keep their child at home if they are not well enough to attend school
- Ensure their child catches up on any school work they have missed
- Ensure their child has regular reviews with their doctor or specialist healthcare professional
- Ensure their child has a written self-management plan from their doctor or specialist healthcare professional to help them manage their child's condition