

Carnforth Christ Church C of E Primary School

SUPPORTING PUPILS WITH MEDICAL NEEDS POLICY

School Mission Statement

Carnforth Christ Church C of E Primary School is a vibrant, stimulating and caring educational community which exists to celebrate the uniqueness of every person, made as they are in the image and likeness of God.

At Carnforth Christ Church, we believe that God is with us as our guide; 'we know it by the Spirit He gave us' (1 John 3:24) and 'the fruit of the Spirit is: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control, against such things there is no law.' (Galatians 5: 22-23) We live by the Spirit, for the Spirit and with the Spirit – this is our central ethos.

1. Legislation

This policy outlines how we strive to achieve the best and most appropriate provision for pupils who have medical conditions, whilst having regard for Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014 and the statutory requirements.

Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014 places a duty on the Governing Body and Senior Leadership Team to make arrangements for supporting pupils at Carnforth Christ Church C of E School with medical conditions. In meeting the duty of care, the Governing Body must have regard to this guidance issued by the Secretary of State which came into force on 1st September, 2014.

Pupils with special medical needs have the same right of admission to school as other children and cannot be refused admission or excluded from school on medical grounds alone. However, teachers and other school staff in charge of pupils have a common law duty to act in the place of the parent (in loco parentis) and may need to take swift action in an emergency. This duty also extends to teachers leading activities taking place off the school site. This could extend to a need to administer medicine. The prime responsibility for a child's health lies with the parent who is responsible for the child's medication and should supply the school with all the correct and up to date information.

2. Key Points

- Pupils at Carnforth Christ Church with medical conditions will be properly supported so that they have full access to their education, including school trips and Physical Education (PE).
- The Governors will ensure that arrangements are in place in the school to support pupils with medical conditions.
- The Governors will ensure that the school consults health and social care professionals, parents and carers to ensure that the needs of children with medical conditions are effectively supported.

3. Definition of Medical Needs

Pupils' medical needs may be broadly summarised as being of two types:

- **Short-term** affecting their participation in school activities because they are on a course of medication.
- **Long-term** potentially limiting their access to education and requiring extra care and support (deemed special medical needs).

4. **The Role of the Governing Body and School**

The Governors will ensure that arrangements are in place to support children with medical conditions. In doing so, they will also ensure that the children can access and enjoy the same opportunities at school as any other child. In making these arrangements, they will take into account that many medical conditions that require support in school, will affect quality of life and may be life threatening. Carnforth Christ Church School will ensure that the focus is on the needs of each individual child and how their medical condition impacts on their school life.

We aim to ensure that these arrangements give parents and pupils confidence in the school's ability to provide effective support for medical conditions in school. We aim to show an understanding of how medical conditions impact on a child's ability to learn as well as increase their confidence and promote self-care.

Staff will be properly trained to provide the support that pupils need.

Some children with medical conditions may be disabled. Where this is the case the Governors must comply with their duties under the Equality Act 2010. Some children may also have Special Educational Needs and may have a statement, or Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan which brings together health and social care needs, as well as their special educational provision. For children with SEN, this guidance should be read in conjunction with the SEN Code of Practice and Carnforth Christ Church C of E Primary School SEN Information Report and policy.

If a child is deemed to have a long-term medical condition, the school will ensure that arrangements are in place to support them. In doing so, we will ensure that such children can access and enjoy the same opportunities at school as any other child. The school, health professionals, parents/carers and other support services will work together to ensure that children with medical conditions receive a full education, unless this would not be in their best interests because of their health needs. In some cases this will require flexibility and involve, for example, programmes of study that rely on part time attendance at school in combination with alternative provision arranged by the Local Authority and health professionals. Consideration will also be given to how children will be reintegrated back into school after long periods of absence.

Staff must not give prescription medicines or undertake health care procedures without appropriate training (updated to reflect any Individual Health Care Plans). In school, we recognise that a first-aid certificate **does not** constitute appropriate training in supporting children with medical conditions. Healthcare professionals, including the school nurse, whom we have regular access to, will provide training and subsequent confirmation of the proficiency of staff in a medical procedure, or in providing medication.

5. **Procedures to be followed when Notification is received that a Pupil has a Medical Condition**

We will ensure that the correct procedures will be followed whenever we are notified that a pupil has a medical condition. The procedures will also be in place to cover any transitional arrangements between

schools, the process to be followed upon reintegration or when pupil's needs change and arrangements for any staff training or support. For children starting at Carnforth Christ Church C of E Primary School, arrangements will be in place in time for the start of the relevant school term. In other cases, such as a new diagnosis or children moving to our school mid-term, we will make every effort to ensure that arrangements are put in place within two weeks.

Carnforth Christ Church C of E Primary School does not have to wait for a formal diagnosis before providing support to pupils. In cases where a pupil's medical condition is unclear, or where there is a difference of opinion, judgements will be needed about what support to provide based on the available evidence. This would normally involve some form of medical evidence and consultation with parents/carers. Where evidence conflicts, some degree of challenge may be necessary to ensure that the right support can be put in place. This will usually be led by the SENCO or the Headteacher. Following the discussions an Individual Health Care Plan will be put in place.

6. Individual Health Care Plans

Individual Health Care Plans will be written and reviewed by the SENCO but it is the responsibility of all members of staff supporting the individual children to ensure that the plan is followed. The class teacher will be responsible for the child's development and ensuring that they and their medical conditions are supported at school. Individual Healthcare Plans will help to ensure that the school effectively supports pupils with medical conditions. They will provide clarity about what needs to be done, when and by whom. They will often be essential, such as in cases where conditions fluctuate or where there is a high risk that emergency intervention will be needed. They are likely to be helpful in the majority of other cases too, especially where medical conditions are long-term and complex. However, not all children will require one. The school, health care professional and parents/carers should agree, based on evidence, when a Health Care Plan would be inappropriate or disproportionate. If consensus cannot be reached, the Headteacher is best placed to take a final view. A flow chart for identifying and agreeing the support a child needs and developing an Individual Healthcare Plan is provided in Annex A.

Individual Health Care Plans will be easily accessible to all who need to refer to them, while preserving confidentiality. Plans will capture the key information and actions that are required to support the child effectively. The level of detail within plans will depend on the complexity of the child's condition and the degree of support needed. This is important because different children with the same health condition may require very different support. Where a child has SEN but does not have a statement or EHC plan, their SEN should be mentioned in their Individual Health Care Plan. Annex B shows a template for the Individual Health Care Plan and the information that needs to be included.

Individual Health Care Plans, (and their Review), may be initiated, in consultation with the parent/carer, by a member of school staff or a healthcare professional involved in providing care to the child. The Individual Health Care Plan must be completed by the Lead Professional (usually the SENCO) with support from parents/carers, and a relevant healthcare professional, e.g. school nurse, specialist or children's community nurse, who can best advise on the particular needs of the child. Pupils should also be involved whenever appropriate. The responsibility for ensuring it is finalised and implemented rests with the school.

The school will ensure that Individual Health Care Plans are reviewed at least annually or earlier, if evidence is presented that the child's needs have changed. They will be developed and reviewed with the child's best interests in mind and ensure that the school assesses and manages risks to the child's education, health and social wellbeing and minimises disruption. Where the child has a SEN identified in a statement or EHC plan, the Individual Health Care Plan should be linked to or become part of that statement or EHC plan.

Annex B provides a template for the Individual Health Care Plan but it is a necessity that each one includes;

- **the medical condition**, its triggers, signs, symptoms and treatments;
- **the pupil's resulting needs**, including medication (dose, side-effects and storage) and other treatments, time, facilities, equipment, testing, access to food and drink where this is used to manage their condition, dietary requirements and environmental issues e.g. crowded/noisy conditions, travel time between lessons;
- **specific support for the pupil's educational, social and emotional needs** – for example, how absences will be managed, requirements for extra time to complete tests, use of rest periods or additional support in catching up with lessons, counselling sessions;
- **the level of support needed**, (some children will be able to take responsibility for their own health needs), including in emergencies. If a child is self-managing their medication, this should be clearly stated with appropriate arrangements for monitoring;
- **who will provide this support**, their training needs, expectations of their role and confirmation of proficiency to provide support for the child's medical condition from a healthcare professional; and cover arrangements for when they are unavailable;
- **who in the school needs to be aware of the child's condition** and the support required;
- **arrangements for written permission** from parents/carers and the Headteacher for medication to be administered by a member of staff, or self-administered by the pupil during school hours;
- **separate arrangements or procedures required for school trips** or other school activities outside of the normal school timetable that will ensure the child can participate, e.g. risk assessments;
- where **confidentiality issues** are raised by the parents/carers or child, the designated individuals to be entrusted with information about the child's condition;
- **what to do in an emergency**, including whom to contact, and contingency arrangements. Some children may have an Emergency Health Care Plan prepared by their lead clinician that could be used to inform development of their Individual Health Care Plan. The Emergency Health Care Plan will not be the School's responsibility to write or review.

7. Roles and Responsibilities

The Governing Body will make arrangements to support pupils with medical conditions in school. They will ensure that sufficient staff have received suitable training and are competent before they take on extra responsibility to support children with medical conditions.

The school staff can be asked to provide support to pupils with medical conditions (including the administering of medicines) although they cannot be required to do so. Staff will receive suitable and sufficient training to support any pupils that they teach.

Parents should provide the school with sufficient and up-to-date information about their child's needs. They should provide the medicine and ensure that they, or another nominated adult, are contactable at all times.

8. Staff Training and Support

We will ensure that staff are properly trained to provide the support that pupils need. We will make sure that no child with a medical condition is denied admission or prevented from attending our school because arrangements for their medical condition have not been made. However, in line with our Safeguarding duties, we will ensure that pupils' health is not put at unnecessary risk from, for example infectious diseases. We will therefore not accept a child in school at times where it would be detrimental to the health of that child or others.

9. The Child's Role in managing their own Medical Needs

If it is deemed, after discussion with the parents/carers, that a child is competent to manage their own health needs and medicines, the school will encourage them to take responsibility for managing their own medicines and procedures. This will be reflected within Individual Health Care Plans.

Wherever possible, children should be allowed to carry their own medicines and relevant devices or should be able to access their medicines for self-medication quickly and easily; these will be securely stored in the School Office to ensure that the safeguarding of other children is not compromised. The school does also recognise that children who can take their medicines themselves or manage procedures may require an appropriate level of supervision. If a child is not able to self-medicate then relevant staff should help to administer medicines and manage procedures for them.

If a child refuses to take medicine or carry out a necessary procedure, staff will not force them to do so but instead follow the procedure agreed in the Individual Health Care Plan. Parents/carers should be informed, outside of the review, so that alternative options can be considered.

10. Managing Medicines on School Premises

The following are the procedures to be followed for managing medicines:

- Medicines should only be administered at school when it would be detrimental to a child's health or school attendance not to do so.
- No child under 16 should be given prescription or non-prescription medicines without their parents/carers written consent.
- We will only administer prescription medicines to a child with written parental consent. If a parent/carer wishes a child to have non-prescription medicine (Calpol etc) administered during the school day, they can come to the school to administer it to their child themselves.
- The school will only accept prescribed medicines that are in-date, labelled, provided in the original container as dispensed by a pharmacist and include instructions for administration, dosage and storage. The exception to this is insulin which must still be in date, but will generally be available inside an insulin pen or a pump, rather than in its original container.
- All medicines will be stored safely in the School Office (or staff fridge if necessary). Children should know where their medicines are at all times and be able to access them immediately. Where relevant, they should know who holds the key to the storage facility, which will be the School Secretary.
- Medicines and devices such as asthma inhalers, blood glucose testing meters and adrenaline pens should be always readily available to children and not locked away; these will be stored in the classroom cupboards where the Class Teacher, Teaching Assistant and child know how to access them. If a child requires an asthma inhaler it is crucial that there is an inhaler in school at all times.
- During school trips, the member of staff in charge of first aid will carry all medical devices and medicines required.
- Staff administering medicines should do so in accordance with the prescriber's instructions. The School will keep a record of all medicines administered to individual children, stating the name of the medication, method of delivery, quantity administered. The time of administration and member of staff will also be recorded. Any side effects of the medication to be administered at school should be noted. (Annex C and Annex D outline these procedures).
- When no longer required, medicines should be returned to the parent/carer to arrange for safe disposal. Sharps boxes should always be used for the disposal of needles and other sharps.

11. Record Keeping

The school will keep electronic records of all medicines administered to children via CPOMS. These records offer protection to staff and children and provide evidence that agreed procedures have been followed. Parents will be informed if their child has been unwell at school.

12. Emergency Procedures

Where a child has an Individual Healthcare Plan, this should clearly define what constitutes an emergency and explain what to do, including ensuring that all relevant staff are aware of emergency symptoms and procedures. Other pupils in the school should know what to do in general terms, such as informing a teacher immediately if they think help is needed. If a child (regardless of whether they have an Individual Healthcare Plan) needs to be taken to hospital, staff should stay with the child until the parent/carer arrives, or accompany a child taken to hospital by ambulance.

13. Day Trips, Residential Visits and Sporting Activities

The school will ensure that arrangements are clear and unambiguous about the need to support actively pupils with medical conditions to participate in school trips and visits, or in sporting activities, and not prevent them from doing so. The school will make arrangements for the inclusion of pupils in such activities with any adjustments as required unless evidence from a clinician such as a GP states that this is not possible.

Please also see Health and Safety Executive (HSE) guidance on school trips through this link: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/education/visits.htm>

14. Unacceptable Practice

Although school staff should use their discretion and judge each case on its merits with reference to the child's Individual Health Care Plan, it is not generally acceptable practice to:

- Prevent children from easily accessing their inhalers and medication and administering their medication when and where necessary.
- Assume that every child with the same condition requires the same treatment.
- Ignore the views of the child or their parents/carers; or ignore medical evidence or opinion, (although this may be challenged).
- Send children with medical conditions home frequently or prevent them from staying for normal school activities, including lunch, unless this is specified in their individual healthcare plans.
- If the child becomes ill, send them to the School Office unaccompanied or with someone unsuitable.
- Penalise children for their attendance record if their absences are related to their medical condition e.g. hospital appointments.
- Prevent pupils from drinking, eating or taking toilet breaks or other breaks whenever they need to in order to manage their medical condition effectively.
- Require parents/carers, or otherwise make them feel obliged, to attend the school to administer prescribed medication or provide medical support to their child, including with toileting issues. No

parent/carer should have to give up working because the school is failing to support their child's medical needs.

- Prevent children from participating, or create unnecessary barriers to children participating in any aspect of school life, including school trips, e.g. by requiring parents/carers to accompany the child.

15. Liability and Indemnity

The Governors will ensure that the appropriate level of insurance is in place and that it appropriately reflects the level of risk. These insurance policies are accessible to staff providing such support to children with medical needs.

16. Complaints

Should parents/carers or pupils be dissatisfied with the support provided they should discuss their concerns directly with the school. If for whatever reason this does not resolve the issue, they may make a formal complaint via the complaints procedure outlined in the School's Complaints Policy.

Written December 2014

Daniel Hargreaves (Headteacher)

Reviewed December 2016, with no changes

Next Review Date: December 2019

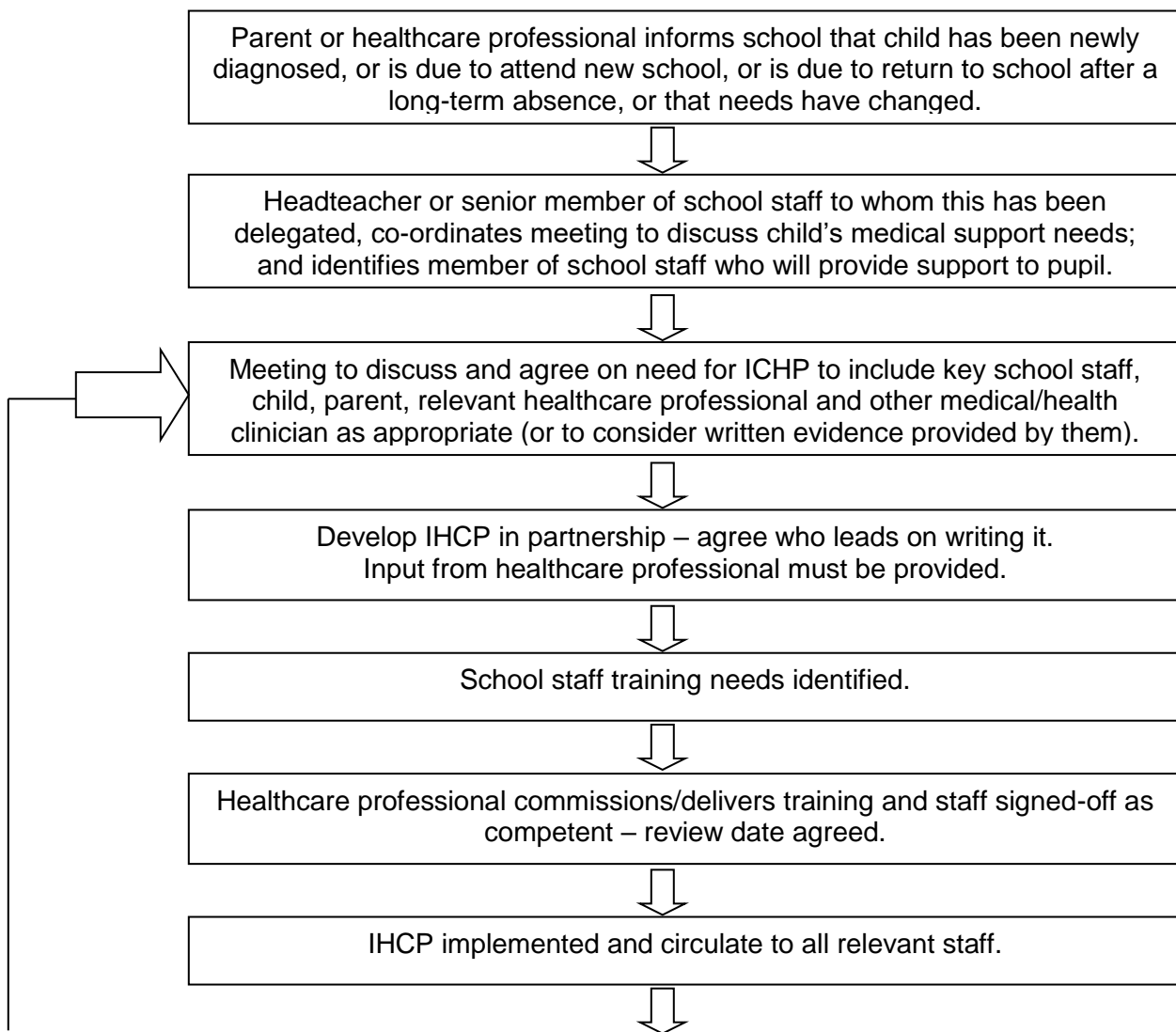
Reviewed September 2023 , with minor change to recording procedure

Catherine Prince (Headteacher)

Next review date: September 2026

Annex A

Model Process for Developing Individual Health Care Plans



IHCP reviewed annually or when condition changes. Parent or healthcare professional to initiate.

INDIVIDUAL HEALTH CARE PLAN (IHCP)

NAME	
CLASS	
ADDRESS	
CONTACT NUMBER	
DATE OF BIRTH	
SCHOOL	
MEDICAL DIAGNOSIS OR CONDITION	

Annex B

NAME OF PARENT / CARER 1	
ADDRESS	
CONTACT NUMBERS	Work: Home: Mobile:
RELATIONSHIP TO CHILD	

NAME OF PARENT / CARER 2	
ADDRESS	
CONTACT NUMBERS	Work: Home: Mobile:

RELATIONSHIP TO CHILD	
-----------------------	--

CLINIC / HOSPITAL NAME	
------------------------	--

CONTACT NUMBER	
----------------	--

GP NAME	
---------	--

CONTACT NUMBER	
----------------	--

Describe medical needs and give details of child's symptoms, triggers, signs, treatments, facilities, equipment or devices, environmental issues ...etc...

Name of medication, dosage, method of administration, when to be taken, side effects, contra-indications, administered by self with / without supervision ...etc...

Daily care requirements.

Specific support for the pupil's educational, social and emotional needs.

Arrangements for school visits / trips ...etc...

Other information.

Describe what constitutes an emergency and the action taken if this occurs.

Who is responsible in an emergency? State if different for off-site activities.

Staff training need or undertaken? – who, what, when, where...?

--

SIGNED (Child if appropriate)	DATE
SIGNED (Parent)	DATE
SIGNED (School)	DATE