



Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions Policy

Review Summary

Adopted:	<i>27 September 2017</i>
Review Cycle:	<i>Bi-annual</i>
Last Review:	June 2022
Next Review:	June 2024

Introduction

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 with medical conditions. 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 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 information.

All schools and academies are expected by Ofsted to have a policy dealing with medical needs and to be able to demonstrate that this is implemented effectively. The Trust ensures that each school has a policy for supporting pupils with medical conditions, which is reviewed regularly. Each schools' policy is readily accessible to parents and school staff on the individual schools' website.

The aim of this policy is to ensure that all children with medical conditions, in terms of both physical and mental health, are properly supported in school so that they can play a full and active role in school life, remain healthy and achieve their academic potential.

Each school's policy will include:

- who is responsible for ensuring that sufficient staff are suitably trained;
- a commitment that all relevant staff will be made aware of the child's condition;
- cover arrangements in case of staff absence or staff turnover to ensure someone is always available;
- briefing for supply teachers;
- risk assessments for school visits, holidays, and other school activities outside the normal timetable; and
- monitoring of individual healthcare plans.

Procedure to be Followed When Notification is Received That a Pupil Has a Medical Condition

The Trust will ensure that each schools' policy sets out the procedure to be followed whenever a school is notified that a pupil has a medical condition, 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 a new school, arrangements should 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 a new school mid-term, every effort should be made to ensure that arrangements are put in place within two weeks. Schools do 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. Where evidence conflicts, some degree of challenge may be necessary to ensure that the right support can be put in place.

Individual Healthcare Plans

The Trust will ensure that each school's policy covers the role of individual healthcare plans, and who is responsible for their development, in supporting pupils at school with medical condition.

The Trust ensures schools review plans annually, or earlier if evidence is presented that a child's needs have changed. Individual healthcare plans should be developed with the child's best interests in mind and ensure that the school assesses and manages risks to the child's education, health and wellbeing, and minimises disruption.

Individual healthcare plans can help to ensure that schools effectively support pupils with medical conditions. They 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, and are likely to be helpful in the majority of other cases, especially where medical conditions are long-term and complex. However, not all children will require one. The school, healthcare professional and parent should agree, based on evidence, when a healthcare 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 at annex A.

The format of individual healthcare plans may vary to enable schools to choose whichever is the most effective for the specific needs of each pupil. They should be easily accessible to all who need to refer to them, while preserving confidentiality. Plans should not be a burden on a school, but should 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 special educational needs should be mentioned in their individual healthcare plan.

Individual healthcare plans (and their review) may be initiated, in consultation with the parent, by a member of school staff or a healthcare professional involved in providing care to the child. Plans should be drawn up in partnership between the school, parents, and a

relevant healthcare professional, e.g. school nurse, specialist or children's community nurse or paediatrician, who can best advise on the particular needs of the child. Pupils should also be involved whenever appropriate. The aim should be to capture the steps which a school should take to help the child manage their condition and overcome any potential barriers to getting the most from their education and how they might work with other statutory services. Partners should agree who will take the lead in writing the plan, but responsibility for ensuring it is finalised and implemented rests with the school. Where the child has a special educational need identified in a statement or EHC plan, the individual healthcare plan should be linked to or become part of that statement or EHC plan. Where a child is returning to school following a period of hospital education or alternative provision (including home tuition), schools should work with the local authority and education provider to ensure that the individual healthcare plan identifies the support the child will need to reintegrate effectively.

The following information will be included within individual healthcare plans:

- 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 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 Healthcare Plan. The Emergency Health Care Plan will not be the schools' responsibility to write or review.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Trust recognises that supporting a pupil with a medical condition during school hours is not the sole responsibility of one person. Schools will need to work co-operatively with other agencies. Partnership working between school staff, healthcare professionals (and, where appropriate, social care professionals), local authorities, and parents and pupils will be critical.

The Trust will ensure that each schools' policy clearly identifies the roles and responsibilities of all those involved in the arrangements they make to support pupils at school with medical conditions.

Some of the most important roles and responsibilities are noted below:

- **Governing bodies** must make arrangements to support pupils with medical conditions in school, including making sure that a policy for supporting pupils with medical conditions in school is developed and implemented. They should ensure that sufficient staff have received suitable training and are competent before they take on responsibility to support children with medical conditions.
- **Headteachers** should ensure that their school's policy is developed and effectively implemented with partners. This includes ensuring that all staff are aware of the policy for supporting pupils with medical conditions and understand their role in its implementation. Headteachers should ensure that all staff who need to know are aware of the child's condition. They should also ensure that sufficient trained numbers of staff are available to implement the policy and deliver against all individual healthcare plans, including in contingency and emergency situations. This may involve recruiting a member of staff for this purpose. Headteachers have overall responsibility for the development of individual healthcare plans. They should also make sure that school staff are appropriately insured and are aware that they are insured to support pupils in this way. They should contact the school nursing service in the case of any child who has a medical condition that may require support at school, but who has not yet been brought to the attention of the school nurse.
- **Parents** should provide the school with sufficient and up-to-date information about their child's medical needs. They may in some cases be the first to notify the school that their child has a medical condition. Parents are key partners and should be involved in the development and review of their child's individual healthcare plan, and may be involved in its drafting. They should carry out any action they have agreed to as part of its implementation, e.g. provide medicines and equipment and ensure they or another nominated adult are contactable at all times.
- **Pupils** with medical conditions will often be best placed to provide information about how their condition affects them. They should be fully involved in discussions about their medical support needs and contribute as much as possible to the development of, and comply with, their individual healthcare plan. Other pupils will often be sensitive to the needs of those with medical conditions.

- Any member of **school staff** may be asked to provide support to pupils with medical conditions, including the administering of medicines, although they cannot be required to do so. Although administering medicines is not part of teachers' professional duties, they should take into account the needs of pupils with medical conditions that they teach. School staff should receive sufficient and suitable training and achieve the necessary level of competency before they take on responsibility to support children with medical conditions. Any member of school staff should know what to do and respond accordingly when they become aware that a pupil with a medical condition needs help.
- Every school has access to **school nursing** services. They are responsible for notifying the school when a child has been identified as having a medical condition which will require support in school. Wherever possible, they should do this before the child starts at the school. They would not usually have an extensive role in ensuring that schools are taking appropriate steps to support children with medical conditions, but may support staff on implementing a child's individual healthcare plan and provide advice and liaison, for example on training. School nurses can liaise with lead clinicians locally on appropriate support for the child and associated staff training needs; for example, there are good models of local specialist nursing teams offering training to local school staff, hosted by a local school. Community nursing teams will also be a valuable potential resource for a school seeking advice and support in relation to children with a medical condition. See also paragraphs 18 to 20 below about training for school staff.
- **Other healthcare professionals**, including GPs and paediatricians, should notify the school nurse when a child has been identified as having a medical condition that will require support at school. They may provide advice on developing individual healthcare plans. Specialist local health teams may be able to provide support in schools for children with particular conditions (e.g. asthma, diabetes, epilepsy).
- **Local authorities** are commissioners of school nurses for maintained schools and academies. Under Section 10 of the Children Act 2004, they have a duty to promote co-operation between relevant partners – such as governing bodies of maintained schools, proprietors of academies, clinical commissioning groups and NHS England – with a view to improving the wellbeing of children with regard to their physical and mental health, and their education, training and recreation. Local authorities and clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) must make joint commissioning arrangements for education, health and care provision for children and young people with SEN or disabilities (Section 26 of the Children and Families Act 2014). Local authorities should provide support, advice and guidance, including suitable training for school staff, to ensure that the support specified within individual healthcare plans can be delivered effectively. Local authorities should work with schools to support pupils with medical conditions to attend full-time. Where pupils would not receive a suitable education in a mainstream school because of their health needs, the local

authority has a duty to make other arrangements. Statutory guidance for local authorities⁸ sets out that they should be ready to make arrangements under this duty when it is clear that a child will be away from school for 15 days or more because of health needs⁹ (whether consecutive or cumulative across the school year).

- **Clinical commissioning groups** commission other healthcare professionals such as specialist nurses. They should ensure that commissioning is responsive to children's needs, and that health services are able to co-operate with schools supporting children with medical conditions. They have a reciprocal duty to co-operate under Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 and must make joint commissioning arrangements for education, health and care provision for children and young people with SEN or disabilities (as described above for local authorities). Clinical commissioning groups should be responsive to local authorities and schools seeking to strengthen links between health services and schools, and consider how to encourage health services in providing support and advice (and can help with any potential issues or obstacles in relation to this). The local Health and Wellbeing Board will also provide a forum for local authorities and CCGs to consider with other partners, including locally elected representatives, how to strengthen links between education, health and care settings. Since 2013 Local Authorities have been responsible for commissioning public health services for school-aged children including school nursing. CCGs should be aware that this does not include clinical support for children in schools who have long-term conditions and disabilities, which remains a CCG commissioning responsibility. Children in special schools in particular may need care which falls outside the remit of local authority commissioned school nurses, such as gastrostomy and tracheostomy care, or postural support. CCGs should ensure their commissioning arrangements are adequate to provide the ongoing support essential to the safety of these vulnerable children whilst in school.
- **Providers of health services** should co-operate with schools that are supporting children with a medical condition, including appropriate communication, liaison with school nurses and other healthcare professionals such as specialist and children's community nurses, as well as participating in locally developed outreach and training. Health services can provide valuable support, information, advice and guidance to schools, and their staff, to support children with medical conditions at school.

Staff Training and Support

Each school's policy will set out clearly how staff will be supported in carrying out their role to support pupils with medical conditions, and how this will be reviewed. This should specify how training needs are assessed, and how and by whom training will be commissioned and

provided. The school's policy should be clear that any member of school staff providing support to a pupil with medical needs should have received suitable training

Suitable training should have been identified during the development or review of individual healthcare plans. Some staff may already have some knowledge of the specific support needed by a child with a medical condition and so extensive training may not be required. Staff who provide support to pupils with medical conditions should be included in meetings where this is discussed.

The relevant healthcare professional should normally lead on identifying and agreeing with the school the type and level of training required, and how this can be obtained. Schools may choose to arrange training themselves and should ensure this remains up-to-date.

Training should be sufficient to ensure that staff are competent and have confidence in their ability to support pupils with medical conditions, and to fulfil the requirements as set out in individual healthcare plans. They will need an understanding of the specific medical conditions they are being asked to deal with, their implications and preventative measures.

A first-aid certificate does not constitute appropriate training in supporting children with medical conditions.

Healthcare professionals, including the school nurse, can provide confirmation of the proficiency of staff in a medical procedure, or in providing medication.

The school's policy should additionally set out arrangements for whole-school awareness training so that all staff are aware of the school's policy for supporting pupils with medical conditions and their role in implementing that policy. Induction arrangements for new staff should be included. The relevant healthcare professional should be able to advise on training that will help ensure that all medical conditions affecting pupils in the school are understood fully. This includes preventative and emergency measures so that staff can recognise and act quickly when a problem occurs.

The family of a child will often be key in providing relevant information to school staff about how their child's needs can be met, and parents should be asked for their views. They should provide specific advice, but should not be the sole trainer.

Staff must not give medicines or undertake healthcare procedures without appropriate training (updated to reflect requirements within individual healthcare plans).

The Child's Role in Managing Their Own Medical Needs

After discussion with parents, children who are competent should be encouraged to take responsibility for managing their own medicines and procedures. This should be reflected within individual healthcare 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. Children who can take their medicines themselves or manage procedures may require an

appropriate level of supervision. If it is not appropriate for a child to self-manage, 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 should not force them to do so, but follow the procedure agreed in the individual healthcare plan. Parents should be informed so that alternative options can be considered.

Managing Medicines on School Premises

The Trust ensures that the school's policy is clear about the procedures to be followed for managing medicines.

After discussion with parents, children who are competent should be encouraged to take responsibility for managing their own medicines and procedures. This should be reflected within individual healthcare 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. Children who can take their medicines themselves or manage procedures may require an appropriate level of supervision. If it is not appropriate for a child to self-manage, 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 should not force them to do so, but follow the procedure agreed in the individual healthcare plan. Parents should be informed so that alternative options can be considered.

Procedures for managing medicines in schools should include:

- 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 parent's written consent – except in exceptional circumstances where the medicine has been prescribed to the child without the knowledge of the parents. In such cases, every effort should be made to encourage the child or young person to involve their parents while respecting their right to confidentiality. Schools should set out the circumstances in which non prescription medicines may be administered
- a child under 16 should never be given medicine containing aspirin unless prescribed by a doctor.
- medication, e.g. for pain relief, should never be administered without first checking maximum dosages and when the previous dose was taken. Parents should be informed
- where clinically possible, medicines should be prescribed in dose frequencies which enable them to be taken outside school hours
- schools should only accept prescribed and un-prescribed medicines if these 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 to schools inside an insulin pen or a pump, rather than in its original container

- all medicines should be stored safely. 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.
- 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. This is particularly important to consider when outside of school premises, e.g. on school trips 21
- when no longer required, medicines should be returned to the parent to arrange for safe disposal. Sharps boxes should always be used for the disposal of needles and other sharps
- a child who has been prescribed a controlled drug may legally have it in their possession if they are competent to do so, but passing it to another child for use is an offence. Monitoring arrangements may be necessary. Schools should otherwise keep controlled drugs that have been prescribed for a pupil securely stored in a non-portable container and only named staff should have access. Controlled drugs should be easily accessible in an emergency. A record should be kept of any doses used and the amount of the controlled drug held
- school staff may administer a controlled drug to the child for whom it has been prescribed. Staff administering medicines should do so in accordance with the prescriber's instructions.
- Schools should keep a record of all medicines administered to individual children, stating what, how and how much was administered, when and by whom. Any side effects of the medication to be administered at school should be noted in school

Managing Medicines off a School Site

The Trust recognise that there may be times when medicine needs to be administered off the school sites, for example, school trips. When a child is on medication and off site, schools will administer medication as per the record forms and the Individual Healthcare Plan where appropriate. If there are circumstances when medication needs to be given outside of the school day, for example, early morning or late night trips or residential stays, Parents/Carers will be invited to meet a suitably trained member of staff, to ensure the relevant forms have been completed detailing the time and amount of medication to be administered. Medication will be stored as per the manufacture instructions and kept with the designated staff member for the duration of the trip.

Emergency Medication

Schools can keep emergency medication in the form of salbutamol inhalers and adrenaline auto injectors. These medications can be given with obtained Parent/Carer permission for children who have diagnosed asthma or anaphylaxis.

Where a school has emergency medication, the following documents will be used to inform procedures, storage, record keeping and management of the emergency medication:

- [Emergency Inhalers in Schools Guidance](#)
- [Adrenaline Auto Injectors in Schools Guidance](#)

Defibrillators

Sudden cardiac arrest is when the heart stops beating and can happen to people of any age and without warning. If this does happen, quick action (in the form of early CPR and defibrillation) can help save lives. A defibrillator is a machine used to give an electric shock to restart a patient's heart when they are in cardiac arrest. Modern defibrillators are easy to use, inexpensive and safe.

Unacceptable Practice

Although 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 or medical room 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 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 to administer 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; or

- 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.

Complaints

Should Parents/Carers or pupils be dissatisfied with the support provided they should discuss their concerns directly with their child's school. If for whatever reason this does not resolve the issue, they may make a formal complaint via the complaints procedure outlined in the Trust Complaints Policy. Making a formal complaint to the Department for Education should only occur if it comes within scope of section 496/497 of the Education Act 1996 and after other attempts at resolution have been exhausted

Further information, support and guidance can be found within the [Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions](#) statutory guidance.

Policy Circulation

This Policy will be published on the Trust's website and included in the Trust's Policy Monitoring Schedule.

This Policy will be circulated to every Member, Trustee/Director, Governor and Senior Employee by sending an email to the link on the Trust's website.

The Trustees are responsible for overseeing, reviewing and organising the revision of this Policy.

Adoption of the Policy

This Policy has been adopted by the Trustees of the Ted Wragg Multi Academy Trust.

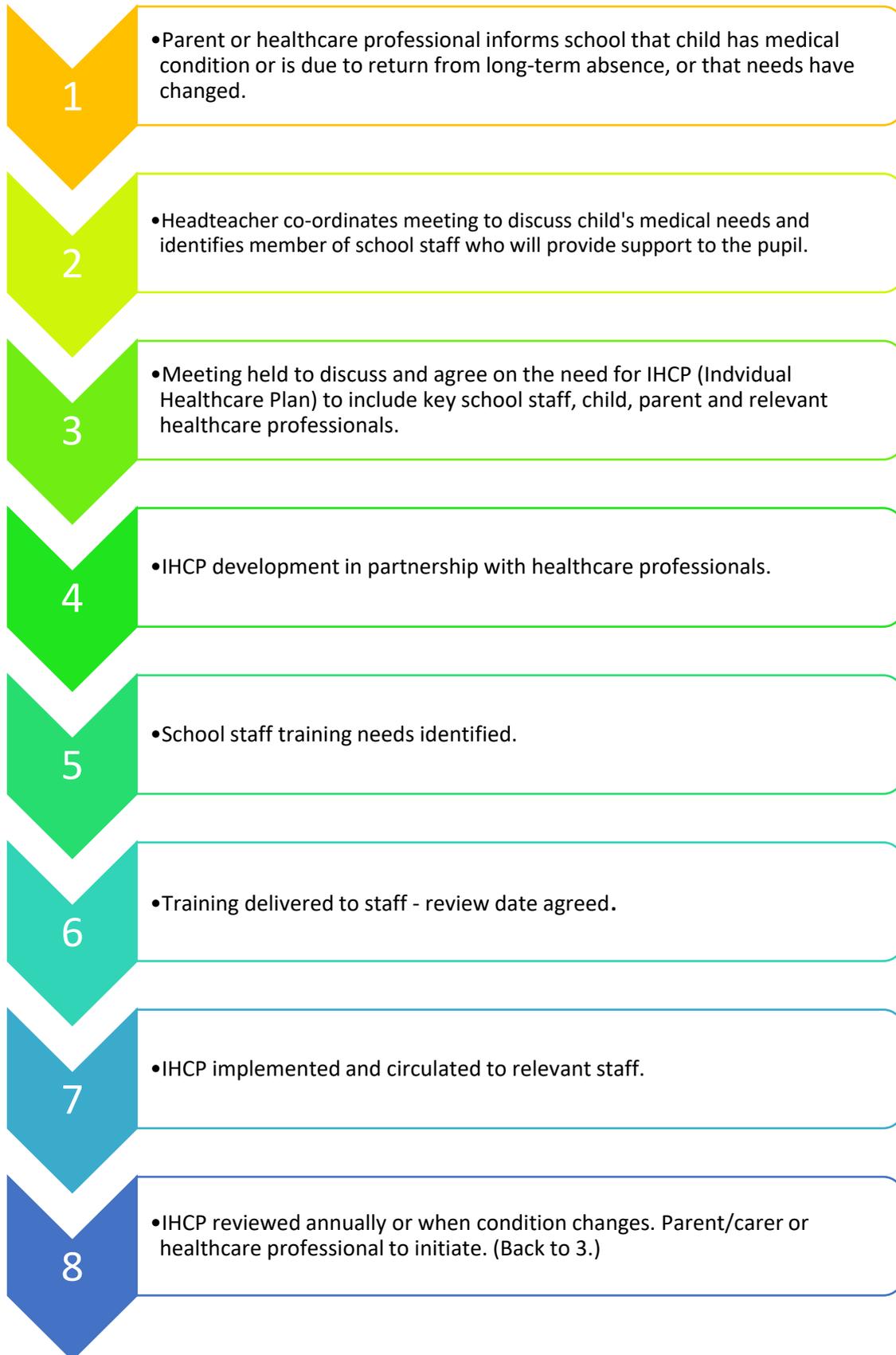
Signed



(Chair of Trust)

Date 15.06.22

Appendix 1 - Procedure to be Followed when a Pupil has a Medical Condition



Appendix 2 Individual Healthcare Plan Template



Child's Name	
Class/Year Group	
Date of Birth	
Address	
Medical Diagnosis or Condition	
Date	
Review Date	
Who is responsible for providing support in school?	

Name of Parent/Carer 1	
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 or environmental issues etc.

Symptoms and Signs

Triggers

Treatments

Other Information as listed above

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

Name of Medication

Dose

When to be taken

Side effects

Other Information as listed above

Daily care requirements

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

Arrangements for school visits/trips etc.

Emergencies... what, who, when.

Other Information

Child can self- administer medication (where appropriate to the medical condition e.g. asthma)	Yes / No
---	-----------------

Agreement and Implementation	
Plan developed by	Staff training required & completed
Signed [Parent / carer]	[Signed Staff member]
Date	Date