

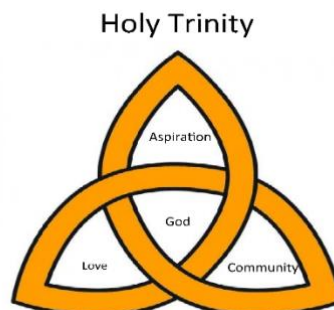
# Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions Policy

## VISION

Our vision is that children are nurtured to love learning, love one another and love God.

***'Love learning, love one another, love God.'***

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and love your neighbour as yourself  
(Mark 12)



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## 1.0 Introduction and purpose

This policy sets out how Holy Trinity supports pupils with medical conditions and the responsibilities of staff in dealing with these pupils. Holy Trinity is an inclusive community that supports and welcomes pupils with medical conditions and works to ensure all pupils to have the same opportunities as others at school.

The school ensures that –

- all staff understand their duty of care to children and young people in the event of an emergency
- all staff feel confident in knowing what to do in an emergency
- we understand that certain medical conditions are serious and can be potentially life threatening, particularly if ill managed or misunderstood
- we understand the importance of medication being taken as prescribed
- all staff understand the children's medical conditions at this school and that staff receive training on the impact medical conditions can have on pupils.
- medication is stored appropriately
- accurate records are maintained

## 2.0 Inclusivity

Holy Trinity is an inclusive community that aims to support and welcomes pupils with medical conditions.

We understand that we have a responsibility to make the school welcoming and supportive to pupils with medical conditions who currently attend and to those who may enrol in the future.

We aim to provide all children with all medical conditions the same opportunities as others at school. We will help to ensure they can:

- be healthy
- stay safe
- enjoy and achieve
- make a positive contribution
- achieve economic well-being

Pupils with medical conditions are encouraged to take control of their condition. Pupils feel confident in the support they receive from the school to help them do this.

Holy Trinity aims to include all pupils with medical conditions in all school activities.

We aim to ensure that parents\* of pupils with medical conditions feel secure in the care their children receive at this school.

Holy Trinity ensures all staff understand their duty of care to children and young people in the event of an emergency.

All staff feel confident in knowing what to do in an emergency.

Holy Trinity understands that certain medical conditions are serious and can be potentially life threatening, particularly if ill managed or misunderstood.

All staff understand the common medical conditions that affect children at Holy Trinity. Staff receive training on the impact this can have on pupils.

The medical conditions policy is understood and supported by the whole school.

*\* The term 'parent' implies any person or body with parental responsibility such as foster parent, carer, guardian or local authority.*

This school ensures that the whole school environment is inclusive and favourable to pupils with medical conditions. This includes the physical environment, as well as social, sporting and educational activities

## **2.1 Physical environment**

The school is committed to providing a physical environment that is accessible to pupils with medical conditions.

Pupils with medical conditions are included in the consultation process to ensure the physical environment at this school is accessible.

The school's commitment to an accessible physical environment includes out-of-school visits. The school recognises that this sometimes means changing activities or locations.

## **2.2 Social interactions**

The school ensures the needs of pupils with medical conditions are considered to ensure their involvement in structured and unstructured social activities, including during breaks and before and after school.

The school ensures the needs of pupils with medical conditions are considered to ensure they have full access to extended school activities.

All staff at Holy Trinity are aware of the potential social problems that pupils with medical conditions 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 medical conditions amongst pupils and to help create a positive social environment.

## **2.3 Exercise and physical activity**

The school understands the importance of all pupils taking part in sports, games and activities.

The school ensures all classroom teachers, PE teachers and sports coaches make appropriate adjustments to sports, games and other activities to make physical activity accessible to all pupils.

The school ensures all classroom teachers, PE teachers and sports coaches understand that pupils should not be forced to take part in an activity if they feel unwell.

Teachers and sports coaches are aware of pupils in their care who have been advised to avoid or to take special precautions with particular activities.

The school ensures all PE teachers, classroom teachers and school sports coaches are aware of the potential triggers for pupils' medical conditions when exercising and how to minimise these triggers.

The school ensures all pupils have the appropriate medication or food with them during physical activity and that pupils take them when needed/appropriate.

The school ensures that there is access for all pupils with medical conditions to take part in out-of-school clubs and team sports.

## **2.4 Education and learning**

The school ensures that pupils with medical conditions can participate fully in all aspects of the curriculum and ensures that appropriate adjustments and extra support are 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 medical condition.

Teachers are aware of the potential for pupils with medical conditions to have special educational needs (SEN). Pupils with medical conditions who are finding it difficult to keep up with their studies are referred to the SENCo. The SENCo consults the pupil, parents and the pupil's healthcare professional to ensure the effect of the pupil's condition on their schoolwork is properly considered.

The school ensures that lessons about common medical conditions are incorporated into PSHE lessons and other parts of the curriculum.

## **2.5 Residential visits**

Risk assessments are carried out by this school prior to any out-of-school visit and medical conditions are considered during this process. Factors this school considers include: how all pupils will be able to access the activities proposed, how routine and emergency medication will be stored and administered, and where help can be obtained in an emergency.

The school understands that there may be additional medication, equipment or other factors to consider when planning residential visits. This school considers additional medication and facilities that are normally available at school.

Risk assessments are carried out before pupils start any work experience or off-site educational placement. It is our responsibility to ensure that the placement is suitable, including travel to and from the venue for the pupil. Permission is sought from the pupil and their parents before any medical information is shared with an employer or other education provider.

## **3.0 Emergency Procedures**

All staff understand and are trained in the school's general emergency procedures and what to do in an emergency for the most common serious medical conditions at this school

All staff know what action to take in the event of a medical emergency. This includes:

- how to contact emergency services and what information to give
- who to contact within the school

Staff at Holy Trinity 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 medication.

Training is refreshed for all staff regularly.

Action for staff to take in an emergency for the common serious conditions at Holy Trinity is clearly displayed in prominent locations for all staff (Staffroom and medical room.)

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.

Holy Trinity uses Healthcare Plans to inform the appropriate staff of pupils in their care who may need emergency help.

Holy Trinity has procedures in place so that a copy of the pupil's Healthcare Plan is 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.

## 4.0 Administration of medication at school

### 4.1 Administration – emergency medication

All pupils at Holy Trinity with medical conditions have easy access to their emergency medication. Pupils understand the arrangements for members of staff to assist in helping them take their medication safely.

The school has a working defibrillator in the foyer. This is checked every six months by the lead first aid provider, Claire Bell.

### 4.2 Administration – general

All use of medication defined as a controlled drug, even if the pupil can administer the medication themselves, is done under the supervision of a named member of staff at Holy Trinity.

Holy Trinity understands the importance of medication being taken as prescribed.

All staff are aware that there is no legal or contractual duty for any member of staff to administer medication or supervise a pupil taking medication unless they have been specifically contracted to do so.

There are several members of staff at Holy Trinity who have been specifically contracted to administer medication.

Training is given to all staff members who agree to administer medication to pupils, where specific training is needed. The local authority provides full indemnity.

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 medication.

In some circumstances medication is only administered by an adult of the same gender as the pupil, and preferably witnessed by a second adult.

Parents at Holy Trinity understand that if their child's medication changes or is discontinued, or the dose or administration method changes, that they should notify the school immediately.

If a pupil at this school refuses their medication, staff record this and follow procedures. Parents are informed as soon as possible.

If a pupil at this school needs supervision or access to medication during home to school transport organised by the local authority, properly trained escorts are provided. All drivers and escorts have the same training as school 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 they are properly trained and have access to the relevant Healthcare Plans.

All staff attending off-site visits are aware of any pupils with medical conditions on the visit. They receive information about the type of condition, what to do in an emergency and any other additional support necessary, including any additional medication or equipment needed.

If a trained member of staff, who is usually responsible for administering medication, is not available the school makes alternative arrangements to provide the service. This is always considered in the risk assessment for off-site activities.

If a pupil misuses medication, either their own or another pupil's, their parents are informed as soon as possible. These pupils are subject to the school's usual disciplinary procedures.

## 5. Storage of medication at school

### 5.1 Safe storage – emergency medication

Emergency medication is readily available to pupils who require it at all times during the school day or at off-site activities. If the emergency medication is a controlled drug and needs to be locked up, the keys are readily available and not held personally by members of staff.

Pupils know exactly where to access their emergency medication and to ask staff for support.

### 5.2 Safe storage – non-emergency medication

All non-emergency medication is kept in a secure place, in a lockable cupboard in a cool dry place. Pupils with medical conditions know where their medication is stored and how to access it.

Staff ensure that medication is only accessible to those for whom it is prescribed.

### 5.5 Safe storage – general

There is an identified member of staff who ensures the correct storage of medication at school. All controlled drugs are kept in a locked cupboard and only staff have access. The medication and expiry dates of medication stored at school is regularly checked.

The identified member of staff, along with the parents of pupils with medical conditions, ensures that all emergency and non-emergency medication brought into school is clearly labelled with the pupil's name, the name and dose of the medication and the frequency of dose.

All medication is supplied and stored, wherever possible, in its original containers. All medication is labelled with the pupil's name, the name of the medication, expiry date and the prescriber's instructions for administration, including dose and frequency.

Medication is stored in accordance with instructions, paying particular note to temperature.

Some medication for pupils at this school may need to be refrigerated. All refrigerated medication is stored in an airtight container (for example the bottle that it comes in) and is clearly labelled. Refrigerators used for the storage of medication are in a secure area, inaccessible to unsupervised pupils or lockable as appropriate.

It is the parent's responsibility to ensure new and in date medication comes into school.

## **5.6 Safe disposal**

Parents at Holy Trinity are asked to collect out-of-date medication.

If parents do not pick up out-of-date medication, or at the end of the school year, medication is taken to a local pharmacy for safe disposal.

A named member of staff is responsible for checking the dates of medication and arranging for the disposal of any that have expired. This check is done at least three times a year.

# **6. Record keeping**

## **6.1 Enrolment forms**

Parents 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.

## **6.2 Healthcare Plans**

Drawing up Healthcare Plans

A Healthcare Plan is used to record important details about individual children's medical needs at school, their triggers, signs, symptoms, medication and other treatments. Further documentation can be attached to the Healthcare Plan if required.

A Healthcare Plan, accompanied by an explanation of why and how it is used, is sent to all parents of pupils with a long-term medical condition. This is drawn up when a diagnosis is first communicated to the school.

If a pupil has a short-term medical condition that requires medication during school hours, a medication form plus explanation is sent to the pupil's parents to complete.

The parents, healthcare professional and pupil with a medical condition, are asked to fill out the pupil's Healthcare Plan together. Parents then return these completed forms to the school.

The school ensures that a relevant member of school staff is also present, if required to help draw up a

Healthcare Plan for pupils with complex healthcare or educational needs.

### **6.3 Storage and access to Healthcare Plans**

Healthcare Plans are kept in the school office and in each relevant classroom or with their medication where needed (eg with an epi-pen).

All members of staff who work with groups of pupils have access to the Healthcare Plans of pupils in their care.

The school ensures that all staff protect pupil confidentiality.

### **6.4 Use of Healthcare Plans**

Healthcare Plans are used by this school to:

- inform the appropriate staff about the individual needs of a pupil with a medical condition in their care
- identify common or important individual triggers for pupils with medical conditions at school that bring on symptoms and can cause emergencies. This school uses this information to help reduce the impact of common triggers
- ensure the school's local emergency care services have a timely and accurate summary of a pupil's current medical management and healthcare in the event of an emergency

### **6.5 Consent to administer medicines**

If a pupil requires regular prescribed or non-prescribed medication at school, parents are asked to provide consent on their child's Healthcare Plan giving the pupil or staff permission to administer medication on a regular/daily basis, if required. A separate form is sent to parents for pupils taking short courses of medication.

All parents of pupils with a medical condition who may require medication in an emergency are asked to provide consent on the Healthcare Plan for staff to administer medication.

If a pupil requires regular/daily help in administering medication, parents complete a consent form to agree to this and it is shared with the lead first aid, CB, and kept in the Healthcare Plan folder.

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

All residential visit forms are taken by the relevant staff member on visits and for all out-of-school hours activities where medication is required. These are accompanied by a copy of the pupil's Healthcare Plan.

All parents of pupils with a medical condition attending a school trip or overnight visit are asked for consent, giving staff permission to administer medication at night or in the morning if required.

The residential visit form also details what medication 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.



## 6.6 Other record keeping

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

The school holds training on common medical conditions regularly. A log of the medical condition training is kept by the school and reviewed regularly to ensure all new staff receive training.

All school staff who are contracted to administer medication are provided with training by a healthcare professional. The school keeps a register of staff who have had the relevant training.

## 7. Risk Management

Holy Trinity is aware of the common triggers that can make medical conditions worse or can bring on an emergency and works towards reducing or eliminating these health and safety risks

Holy Trinity is committed to reducing the likelihood of medical emergencies by identifying and reducing triggers both at school and on out-of-school visits.

School staff have been given training on medical conditions. This training includes detailed information on how to avoid and reduce exposure to common triggers for common medical conditions.

Written information about how to avoid common triggers for medical conditions is shared with all school staff where necessary.

The school uses Healthcare Plans to identify individual pupils who are sensitive to particular triggers. The school has a detailed action plan to ensure these individual pupils remain safe during all lessons and activities throughout the school day.

Full health and safety risk assessments are carried out on all out-of-school activities before they are approved, including trips and residential visits, considering the needs of pupils with medical conditions.

The school reviews medical emergencies and incidents to see how they could have been avoided. Appropriate changes to policy and procedures are implemented where appropriate.