



Thythorn Field  
Primary School

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# Medical Conditions Policy

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**Adopted By School:** November 2023

**Review Date:** November 2026

**Governor Signature:**

## **THYTHORN FIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL**

### **SUPPORTING PUPILS AT SCHOOL WITH MEDICAL CONDITIONS**

1. This policy follows guidelines from the DFE document SUPPORTING PUPILS AT SCHOOL WITH MEDICAL CONDITIONS. Responsibility for ensuring this policy is implemented effectively lies with the Head teacher and governing body who will ensure that:
  - Sufficient staff are trained suitably
  - All relevant staff are made aware of the child or young person's condition
  - There are cover arrangements in the case of staff absence or staff turnover to ensure someone is always available
  - There is briefing for supply teachers
  - There are specific risk assessments for school visits, holidays and other school activities outside of the normal timetable
  - Individual healthcare plans are monitored
2. Thythorn Field Primary School will aim 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. Thythorn is committed to reducing barriers to sharing school life and learning for all pupils.
3. This policy is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for dealing with children with medical needs who require medication to be administered whilst at school or involved in school controlled activities off site or for children who require medication for short periods of time. This policy sets out the steps we will take to ensure full access to learning and school life for all our children that require medication.
4. Parents of children with long-term and/or complex medical conditions can often be concerned that their child's health and wellbeing could deteriorate when they attend school. These concerns are often related to the specific on-going support and care that they need.
5. It is important to remember that children's health needs may change over time, in ways that cannot always be predicted, sometimes resulting in extended absences.
6. It is therefore vital that parents feel confident that schools will provide effective support for their child's medical condition and that pupil's feel safe. In order to help schools make the decisions about the support they provide, they should establish relationships with both the parents and the relevant local health services. It is crucial that schools receive and fully consider advice from healthcare professionals and listen to and value the views of parents and pupils.
7. In addition to the educational impact, there are social and emotional implications associated with medical conditions. Children may be self-conscious about their condition and some may develop emotional disorders such as anxiety or depression around their medical condition. In particular, long term absences due to health problems affect children's educational attainment, impact on their ability to integrate with their peers and affect their general wellbeing and emotional health.

Reintegration back into school should be properly supported so that children with medical conditions fully engage with learning and do not fall behind when they are unable to attend. Short term and

frequent absences, including those appointments connected with a pupil's medical condition (which can often be lengthy); also need to be effectively managed and appropriate support put in place in order to limit the impact on the child's educational attainment and emotional and general wellbeing. The Local Authority Inclusion Team can support schools with pupils who have long periods of absence due to medical conditions. Some children with medical conditions may be disabled. Where this is the case, governing bodies **must** comply with their duties under the Equality Act 2010. Some may also have special educational needs (SEN) and may have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan which brings together health and social care needs as well as their special educational provision.

8. When compiling a healthcare plan, if a pupil's medical condition is unclear, or there is a difference of opinion, judgements will be made based on medical evidence provided by medical professionals and in consultation with parents. Where evidence conflicts efforts made to ensure the right support can be put in place, the Head teacher will make the final decision.

## **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Supporting a child with a medical condition during school hours is not the sole responsibility of one person. The ability to provide effective support depends on working co-operatively with other agencies. Thythorn Field staff will work in close partnership with the Local Authority, healthcare professionals, social care professionals, parents and pupils. The following list details specific responsibilities in regards to ensuring pupils at Thythorn Field who have medical conditions receive the appropriate support, including healthcare plans;

### **The Governing Body will ensure that:**

- Policies are in place that support the best practise and are regularly monitored to support pupils in the school with medical conditions
- Pupils are supported to enable them the fullest participation in all aspects of school life and that sufficient staff have received suitable training and are competent before they take on responsibility to support pupils with medical conditions
- Any members of school staff who provide support to pupils with medical conditions are able to access information and other teaching support materials as needed

### **The Head Teacher will ensure that:**

- The school's policy is developed and effectively implemented with partners
- All staff that need to know are aware of the child's condition
- Sufficiently trained members of staff are available to implement the policy and deliver against all individual healthcare plans, including contingency emergency situations
- If necessary, recruiting staff specific to supporting an individual pupils condition
- School staff are appropriately insured and are aware that they are insured to support pupils in this way
- The nursing service is contacted in the case of any child who has a medical condition that may require support at school, but has not yet been brought to the attention of the school nurse

The Head Teacher has overall responsibility for the development of individual healthcare plans.

## **The School Nurse:**

- Is responsible for notifying the school when a child has been identified as having a medical condition which will require support in school
- Will support staff on implementing a pupil's individual healthcare plan and provide advice and liaison
- Will provide training or advice on where training can be commissioned
- Will liaise with lead clinicians locally on appropriate support for the pupil and associated staff training needs

## **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
- Provide advice on developing healthcare plans
- Provide support for pupils with particular conditions (e.g asthma, diabetes)
- Provide support for pupils who require physiotherapy or occupational therapy, including staff training

## **School Staff:**

- Any member of school staff may be asked to provide support to pupils with medical conditions, including administering medications, although they cannot be required to do so
- Although not part of teachers' professional duties, they should take into account the needs of pupils that they teach with medical conditions
- School staff must receive sufficient and suitable training and achieve the necessary level of competency before they take on the responsibility to support pupils with medical conditions
- School staff to receive initial and then annual update training on medical conditions such as epilepsy to ensure that all Thythorn Field staff know what to do and respond accordingly when they become aware that a pupil with a medical condition needs help.

## **Pupils:**

- Contribute as much as individually possible to healthcare plans, through person centred planning
- Are involved in discussions about their medical support needs wherever possible
- Receive education about respecting and supporting other through PHSEC

## **Parents Should:**

- Provide the school with sufficient up to date information about their child's medical needs
- Be involved in the development and review of their child's individual healthcare plan and may be involved in its drafting
- Carry out any actions they have agreed to as part of the plan implementation, e.g provide medicines and equipment and ensure they or another nominated adult are contactable at all times (school/parent agreement)

## **Local Authorities – As commissioners of school nurses for maintained schools and academies:**

- Under section 10 of the Children Act 2014, staff have a duty to promote co-operation between relevant partners of maintained schools or academies and clinical commissioning groups and NHS England with regard to improving the well-being of children in relation to physical and mental health, education, training and recreation
- Should work with schools to support pupils with medical conditions to attend full time
- Should provide support, advice and guidance to schools including suitable training provision for staff
- Alternative education provision should be made where pupils would not receive suitable education in a mainstream school because of their health needs

## **Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) – When commissioning other healthcare professionals should:**

- Ensure that commissioning is responsive to children's needs and health services are able to co-operate with the school in providing support for pupils with medical conditions

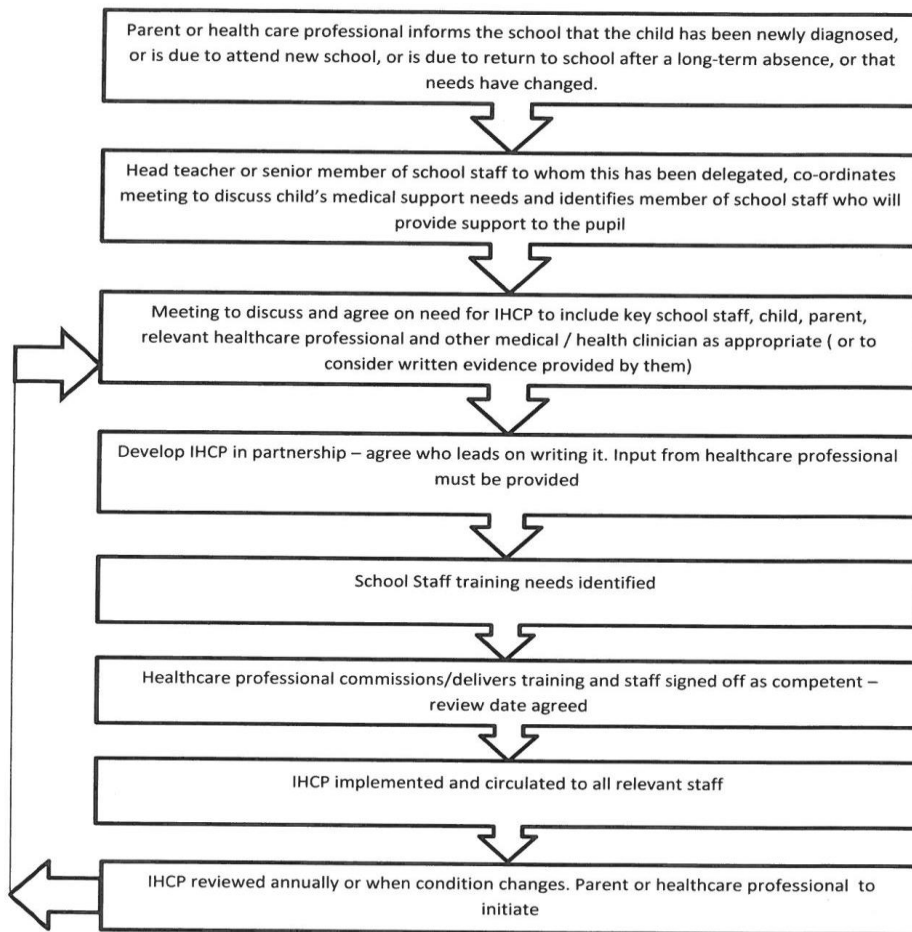
## **OFSTED**

- Inspectors are briefed to consider the needs of pupils with chronic or long term medical conditions and comment on how well their needs are being met

## **COMPLAINTS**

Should parents or pupils be dissatisfied with the support provided, they should discuss concerns directly with the school. If the issue is not resolved they can make a formal complaint via the schools complaints procedure which can be found on the school's website and includes the full procedure including contacts.

**When notification is received that a pupil has a medical condition the following procedure should be followed in preparation for compiling an individual healthcare plan :**



**Arrangements to be considered -**

**When a pupil is new to Thythorn Field Primary School**

- All information has been received
- Staff training or support

- Arrangements must be in place by the start of the relevant school term. If changing schools mid-term, every effort must be made to ensure the arrangements are in place within two weeks.

**When a pupil moves from Thythorn Field Primary School to a new school**

- Relevant information is sent to the new school in good time.