



Robert Bloomfield Academy

Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions and Children with Health Needs who cannot attend school Policy

Current Version	December 2023
Minor changes made	
Significant changes made	No significant changes made
Ratified	Principal
Validity	Yearly
Next Review	December 2024
Author	C Tudge, Medical Coordinator



Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions and Children with Health Needs who cannot attend school Policy. (2023)

To be reviewed annually

1. Rationale and Aim

This policy explains our approach to supporting pupils with medical conditions in our Academy. At Robert Bloomfield Academy (RBA) some of our children and young people will have medical conditions that require support and we want to do this so that they can have full access to education.

2. Policy

- Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014 places a duty on Governing Bodies of Academies to make arrangements for supporting pupils at their school with medical conditions.
- Some children with medical conditions may be disabled. Where this is the case we comply with the Equality Act 2010.
- Some may also have Special Educational Needs (SEN) and may have a statement, or Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan. Our SEND policy sets out support for pupils with SEN.
- This policy is written in conjunction with the DfE document “Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions”, December 2015

3. Procedure

Implementation of the policy by a named person

- At RBA the named person with responsibility for day to day implementation of this policy is the Medical Coordinator. This person is responsible for ensuring that all staff are suitably trained.
- All staff will be made aware of a child’s condition through their Health Care Plan, and their medical needs on SIMS / Edulink/Google Drive. Staff are signposted to SIMS/Edulink/Google Drive on the initial training day in September.
- There will always be a number of trained first aid staff in the Academy to ensure adequate cover in the case of staff absence. These staff will be aware of pupils and their medical conditions.
- Any supply or cover teachers in the Academy will be made aware (via visiting staff handbook) of the medical conditions of pupils that they will be teaching during their time in the Academy.
- The named person at RBA will support staff in planning educational visits and school trips involving pupils with medical conditions, working with the EVC to ensure that appropriate risk assessments are drawn up.

Notification that a pupil has a medical condition

- Parents should inform the Academy of any changes to their child’s medical information either by contacting the Medical Coordinator or by emailing school.
- This information will be recorded on the new starter form (when the child starts in Year 5) and passed on during the transition process. Meetings will take place between the persons responsible.
- The information will be recorded on the pupil file, and added to Edulink

Healthcare Plans (see Appendix 1)

When a child has a medical condition that requires support in school a health care plan will be created. Depending on the severity of the condition the plan will be written by the school nursing team, RBA Medical Coordinator or a combination of both. The plan must contain the following (taken directly from government statutory guidance, December 2015):

- 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 corridors, 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 exams, 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 Academy needs to be aware of the child's condition and the support required;
- arrangements for written permission from parents and the Principal 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 parent/child, the designated individuals to be entrusted with information about the child's condition; and
- what to do in an emergency, including whom to contact, and contingency arrangements. Some children may have an emergency healthcare plan prepared by their lead clinician that could be used to inform development of their individual healthcare plan. They will be reviewed annually in consultation with healthcare professionals, parents, the child and Academy staff. Where a child has SEN and an EHC plan, the healthcare should be linked to or be part of EHC plan.

Roles and Responsibilities

- The Governing Body of RBA is responsible for making sure that this policy is developed and implemented. They are to ensure that sufficient staff have received suitable training and are competent before they take on responsibility to support children with medical conditions.
- The Principal of RBA is responsible for implementing the policy. They are to ensure that all staff are aware of the policy and that staff are aware of pupil's conditions, recruiting staff as needed and providing training. They should ensure that there is sufficient insurance in place.
- Academy Staff may be asked to support pupils with medical needs, although they cannot be made to do so. They should be sufficiently trained to undertake the duties. All RBA staff should know what to do should a child with a medical condition require help and can be found on SIMS.
- School nurses notify RBA when a child has been identified as having a medical condition which will require support in school and will write the healthcare plans. RBA will also notify school nurses of any changes in medical conditions that are pertinent to the healthcare plan.

- Pupils should be fully involved in the process supporting their needs, and should contribute as much as possible to their healthcare plan. Children who are competent in managing their own needs should be encouraged to do so, including managing their own medication and procedures. All medication other than diabetes, anaphylactic shock treatment and asthma medication is kept in the medical room. If a child is deemed competent to self-manage then this is encouraged but they still need to visit the medical room to get their medication and to ensure it is documented. All medication, other than that named above will be stored in the medical room. Pupils are not permitted to carry any other medication on their person.
- Parents should provide the Academy with up to date information about their child's needs.
- The Medical Coordinator flags to SLT any potential H & S issues as they arise. The Medical Coordinator also highlights any frequent pupil visitors to the medical room.

3.1. Staff Training and Support

- The member of staff responsible for pupils with medical conditions will review the needs of pupils in the Academy and make a judgement on the training that is required for staff, they will then commission the training from relevant healthcare professionals.
- Any member of staff being asked to support a pupil with medical needs will be given appropriate training.
- Staff must not give prescription medicines or undertake healthcare procedures without appropriate training.
- Whole school awareness training will be provided as required throughout the year (This may relate to specific actions related to Diabetes, Epi pens or Midazolam or more generic medical information that needs to be disseminated to staff).

3.2. Managing medicines on school premises

- Medicines should only be administered at school when it would be detrimental to a child's health or school attendance not to do so.
- The designated Medical Coordinator will undertake training in the administration of medicines. In their absence a nominated first aider will take on the role of administering medication.
- Parent/carers of pupils with long term conditions requiring medication during the Academy day must inform the Academy in writing by completing a Health Care Plan, (Appendix 1), and an Administration of Medicine Consent Form which is available on our school website.
- Parent/carers of pupils requiring prescribed medication over a short period must inform the Academy in writing by completing an Administration of Medicines Consent Form which is available on our school website.
- In relation to more complex treatment, such as in the management of diabetes for example, the Academy may ask the parent to help administer such medication and treatment initially until RBA staff have received training from the specialist nursing team.
- Parents will be informed of the above procedures when the Academy are informed of medical conditions by parents or school nursing team.
- Prescribed medication will only be given if it is in the original container from the pharmacy, clearly stating pupil name, D.O.B. name of medication and dosage to be administered. It must be in-date.
- Epi-Pens should be clearly labelled with pupil's name, D.O.B & should contain the School Care Plan, (Appendix 1). When an Epi Pen is prescribed an NHS care plan will be provided by a hospital doctor or school nurse.
- Medications for the control of asthma, diabetes and allergies may be carried by pupils themselves, but must be used in a safe and responsible manner. Emergency supplies will be stored in the medical room and be accessible at all times.

- Parent/Carers are responsible for medications being delivered to the Academy and collecting unused medication at the end of treatment and that all medication is in date.
- Prescribed medicines in the controlled drugs category, will be held by the designated Medical Coordinator in a locked, non-removable cabinet in the medical room.
- 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.
- The designated Medical Coordinator will keep accurate records of all medications administered, and will inform parent/carers of any reactions to medication.
- The Academy will ensure that staff accompanying trips and visits are aware of any pupils needing medication, and will be advised by the designated Medical Coordinator to speak with parent/carers prior to the visit.

Administration of pain relief and allergic relief (Hayfever care plans / medicine forms are renewed annually if necessary)

- Pain or allergy relief medication will only be administered following consent from parent/carers. This can be done by using Administration of Medicines Consent Form, which is available on our school website or via e mail or telephone call using set protocols. If parents have not completed a consent form, then we can take instruction from a letter or a note in the diary that normally accompanies the medication (if this is unclear then the Medical Coordinator will phone parents to clarify). The consent is sent home with the child for them to complete and return in order for the Academy to administer the medication the next day.
- Pupils will never be offered Aspirin
- If pupils have a headache or stomach cramps due to menstrual cycle then the Medical Coordinator will call parents/carers and discuss the use of pain relief.
- Pupils will only be offered Paracetamol as part of a care plan or if a parent/carer has sent in a temporary request. If pain is following an accident, pain relief may be given following a phonecall to the parent.
- The designated Medical Coordinator will ensure no other medications containing paracetamol have been taken by student on the day.
- The designated Medical Coordinator will keep accurate records with pupil name, D.O.B; Tutor Group, Time and dose taken.

Emergency Salbutamol and Epi pens

- In line with the Department for Health "Guidance on the use of emergency inhalers in schools" RBA will keep an emergency Salbutamol inhaler for those pupils with a diagnosis of asthma and or an existing prescription for salbutamol.
- The emergency salbutamol inhaler should only be used by children who have been diagnosed with asthma, prescribed a reliever inhaler and for whom written parental consent for use of the emergency inhaler has been given.
- This information should be recorded on a child's Asthma card.
- In line with the Department for Health "Guidance on the use of emergency Epi Pens in schools" RBA will keep an emergency Epi Pen for those pupils with a diagnosis of a condition that needs treating by an Epi Pen.
- The emergency Epi Pen, which is kept in school, will only be administered by a member of the medical team in an emergency situation

Emergency Procedures and head injuries

- The individual healthcare plan will clearly state what needs to be done in an emergency.
- If a pupil needs to be taken to hospital, staff will stay with the pupil until a parent arrives

to take them to hospital or accompany them in the ambulance.

- In all cases of bangs to head that are reported to the medical room the pupil will be assessed by the medical team. If the injury is significant and they are deemed fit to return to class the medical team will issue the pupil with a 'head injury' letter for their parents/carers and teachers will also be informed of the injury.

Administration of First Aid, pain relief, antihistamines and rescue medication

- First Aid will be administered by staff members who are suitably qualified, under the guidance of the Medical Coordinator.
- Pain relief, antihistamine and rescue medication will only be administered following written consent from parent /carers. This consent is requested on entry, or via the Administration of Medicine Consent Form available on our school website.
- No students will be given aspirin, unless prescribed by a doctor.
- Only those staff trained in administration of specific medication such as insulin or Buccal Midazolam should administer the medication.
- The designated First Aid Co-Ordinator will ensure no other medications containing Paracetamol has been taken by student on the day.
- The designated Medical Co-ordinator will keep accurate records with student name, D.O.B, tutor Group, time, dosage and reason given.

Children with Health Needs who cannot attend school

- Where a child with health needs is unable to attend school, in accordance with the Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities (Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs, HM Govt, January 2013), the school will meet with parents and request support from Central Bedfordshire Medical Needs Service.
- The guidance states "LAs should, however, arrange provision as soon as it is clear that an absence will last more than 15 days and it should do so at the latest by the sixth day of the absence, aiming to do so by the first day of absence. Where an absence is planned, for example for a stay or recurrent stays in hospital, LAs should make arrangements in advance to allow provision to begin from day one."
- We will collaborate fully with the LA Medical Needs service and ensure that the support provided is always in the best interest of the child. 3.15.4. We will work with the medical needs service in order to create bespoke reintegration plans for young people returning to school following a period of absence due to their health needs

Trips, Visits and Transport

- We will actively support all pupils with medical conditions to enable them to take part in the full range of trips, visits, sporting activities and events in RBA. Please refer to specific guidance regarding Epi Pens, diabetes and other medication in the Educational Visits and Trips Policy.
- Group leaders and supervisors must be made aware of medical needs and how it will impact the activity, with appropriate risk assessment being put in place. Staff should follow Central Bedfordshire Policy on Education Visits and Journeys.
- It may be helpful to notify the school transport providers about a child's medical needs and plan will clearly state what needs to be done in an emergency.
- If a pupil needs to be taken to hospital, staff will stay with the pupil until a parent arrives to take them to hospital or accompany them in the ambulance.

Unacceptable Practice (taken directly from statutory guidance, 2015 It is generally not acceptable 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; 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, or otherwise make them feel obliged, to attend school to administer medication or provide medical support to their child, including with toileting issues. No parent 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.

Handling Complaints

- The RBA Complaints Policy sets out the process that needs to be followed to pursue a complaint.

4. Monitoring and Evaluation

The effectiveness of this policy will be monitored and evaluated through ongoing self-evaluation and analysis of the outcomes of pupils with medical conditions, including attendance rates, achievement profile and involvement in school life.

5. Implementation and Review

This will be implemented by the members of staff in RBA with responsibility for first aid and pastoral care.

This policy will be made known to all staff, parent/carers, pupils and other stakeholders via the RBA website.

This policy will be reviewed annually.

6. Author and Date

Author: C Tudge Medical Coordinator

Approved by: Principal

Date: December 2023

Appendix 1 – The RBA Health Care Plan

RBA HEALTH CARE PLAN	
Student name	
Date of Birth	Tutor Group
Home address	
Name of Medical Condition	
Date plan started	Review Date
Parent/Care Name	
Relationship to Child	
Home phone No.	Work Phone No.
Mobile Phone No.	Email Address
Other parent/carer and relationship to child (2 nd Contact)	
Home Phone No.	Work Phone No.
Mobile Phone No.	Email Address
Name of Clinic or Hospital	
Phone no. of clinic or Hospital	
GP Name and practice address	
GP Phone No:	

Describe medical needs and child's symptoms

Daily care requirements (eg sport/lunch)

Describe what constitutes an emergency for your child

Follow up care:

Who is responsible in an emergency (state if different for off-site activities)

This form is to be completed with the young person, parents, the school and other health professionals and is kept securely in school, both electronically and as a hard copy. This information may be shared with other professionals in the best interests of the health of the young person.

Signed Parent:

Date:

Print Name:

Signed Young Person: Print

Date:

Name:

Signed on behalf of the school:

Date

Print Name:

Describe what constitutes an emergency.
