



**A C A D E M Y  
G R E A T B A R R**

# Supporting Students with Medical Conditions

Policy Owner:	Luke Price
Ratified by:	Local Governing Body
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Next review date:	November 2024

## **Aims**

This policy aims to ensure that:

- ✓ Students, staff, and parents/carers understand how the Academy will support students with medical conditions;
- ✓ Students with medical conditions are properly supported to allow them to access the same education as other students, including educational visits and sporting activities.

The Local Governing Body will implement this policy by:

- ✓ Making sure sufficient staff are suitably trained;
- ✓ Making staff aware of students' conditions, where appropriate;
- ✓ Making sure there are cover arrangements to ensure someone is always available to support students with medical conditions;
- ✓ Providing Cover Supervisors with appropriate information about the policy and relevant students;
- ✓ Sharing Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs).

## **Legislation and statutory responsibilities**

This policy meets the requirements within The Children and Families Act (2014) (section 100), which places a duty on governing bodies to make arrangements for supporting students at the Academy with medical conditions. It is also based on the Department for Education's statutory guidance.

## **Roles and responsibilities**

The Local Governing Body (LGB):

The LGB has ultimate responsibility to make arrangements to support students with medical conditions. The LGB will ensure that sufficient staff have received suitable training and are competent before they are responsible for supporting children with medical conditions.

The Headteacher:

The headteacher delegates the following responsibilities to the Assistant Vice Principal for Personal Development, who will:

- ✓ Make staff aware of the details of this policy and understand their role in its implementation.
- ✓ Ensure that there is a sufficient number of trained staff available to implement this policy and deliver against all individual healthcare plans (IHPs), including in contingency and emergency situations.
- ✓ Make sure that Academy staff are appropriately insured and aware that they are insured to support students in this way.
- ✓ Contact the Sandwell Nursing Team in the case of any student who has a medical condition that may require support at the Academy, but who has not yet been brought to the attention of the Academy nurse.
- ✓ Ensure that systems are in place for obtaining information about a child's medical needs and that this information is kept up to date.

Staff:

Supporting students with medical conditions during Academy hours is not the sole responsibility of one person. Any member of staff may be asked to provide support to students with medical conditions, although they will not be required to do so. This includes the administration of medicines.

Those staff who take on the responsibility to support students with medical conditions will receive sufficient and suitable training, and will achieve the necessary level of competency before doing so. Teaching staff will consider the needs of students with medical conditions that they teach. All staff must know what to do and respond accordingly when they become aware that a student with a medical condition needs help.

Parents/Carers:

Parents/Carers will:

- ✓ Provide the Academy with sufficient and up-to-date information about their child's medical needs
- ✓ Be involved in the development and review of their child's IHP with a healthcare professional
- ✓ Carry out any action they have agreed to as part of the implementation of the IHP e.g. provide and replenish medicines and equipment as needed.

Students:

Students with medical conditions will often be best placed to provide information about how their condition affects them. Students should be fully involved in discussions about their medical support needs and contribute as much as possible to the development of their IHPs. They are also expected to comply with their IHPs.

Academy Nurses and other healthcare professionals:

The Sandwell Nursing service will notify the Academy when a student has been identified as having a medical condition that will require support within the Academy. This will be before the student starts at the Academy wherever possible. Healthcare professionals, such as GPs and paediatricians, will liaise with the Academy Nurses and notify them of any students identified as having a medical condition.

### **Equal opportunities**

The Academy is clear about the need to actively support students with medical conditions to participate in Educational Visits, or in sporting activities, and not prevent them from doing so.

The Academy will consider what reasonable adjustments need to be made to enable these students to participate fully and safely on educational visits and sporting activities. Risk assessments will be carried out so that planning arrangements take account of any steps needed to ensure that students with medical conditions are included. In doing so, students, their parents/carers, and any relevant healthcare professionals will be consulted if required.

### **Individual Healthcare Plans**

IHPs are created by a healthcare professional and should be reviewed at least annually, or earlier if there is evidence that the student's needs have changed.

Not all students with a medical condition will require an IHP. It will be agreed with a healthcare professional and the parents/carers when an IHP would be inappropriate or disproportionate. This will be based on evidence. If there is not a consensus, the headteacher will make the final decision.

Plans will be drawn up in partnership with the Academy, parents/carers, and a relevant healthcare professional, such as the Academy nurse, specialist or paediatrician, who can best advise on the student's specific needs. The student will be involved wherever appropriate.

IHPs will be linked to, or become part of, any Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan. If a student has SEND but does not have an EHC plan, the SEND will be mentioned in the IHP. The level of detail in the plan will depend on the complexity of the child's condition and how much support is needed.

### **Managing medicines**

Prescription medicines will only be handled by the Academy when it would be detrimental to the student's health or attendance not to do so, and where we have the consent of parents/carers.

The only exception to this is where the medicine has been prescribed to the student without the knowledge of the parents/carers.

The Academy will only accept prescribed medicines that are:

- ✓ In-date
- ✓ Labelled by a pharmacist as prescribed for the student
- ✓ Provided in the original container, as dispensed by the pharmacist, and include instructions for administration, dosage and storage.

The Academy will accept insulin that is inside an insulin pen or pump rather than its original container, but it must be in date. All medicines will be stored safely. Students will be informed about where their medicines are at all times and be able to access them immediately. Medicines and devices such as asthma inhalers, blood glucose testing meters, and adrenaline pens will always be readily available to students and not locked away. Medicines should be collected by parents/carers to arrange for safe disposal when no longer required.

### **Controlled drugs**

Controlled drugs are prescription medicines that are controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Regulations (2001) and subsequent amendments, such as morphine or methadone. A student who has been

prescribed a controlled drug may have it in their possession if they are competent to do so, but they must not pass it to another student to use. All other controlled drugs are kept in a secure cupboard in Reception and only named staff have access. Controlled drugs will be accessible in an emergency and a record of any doses used and the amount held will be kept.

### **Students managing their own needs**

Students who are competent will be encouraged to take responsibility for managing their own medicines and procedures. This will be discussed with parents and it will be reflected in their IHPs.

Students will be allowed to carry their own medicines and relevant devices wherever possible. Staff will not force a student to take a medicine or carry out a necessary procedure if they refuse, but will follow the procedure agreed in the IHP and inform parents/carers, so that an alternative option can be considered, if necessary.

### **Unacceptable practice**

Academy staff should use their discretion and judge each case individually with reference to the student's IHP, but it is generally not acceptable to:

- ✓ Prevent students from easily accessing their inhalers and medication, and administering their medication when and where necessary
- ✓ Assume that every student with the same condition requires the same treatment
- ✓ Ignore the views of the student or their parents/carers (although this may be challenged)
- ✓ Ignore medical evidence or opinion (although this may be challenged)
- ✓ Send children with medical conditions home frequently for reasons associated with their medical condition or prevent them from staying for normal Academy activities, including lunch, unless this is specified in their IHPs
- ✓ If the student becomes ill, send them to Reception or medical room unaccompanied or with someone unsuitable
- ✓ Penalise students for their attendance record if their absences are related to their medical condition, e.g. unavoidable hospital appointments
- ✓ Prevent students 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 the Academy 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 Academy is failing to support their child's medical needs
- ✓ Prevent students from participating, or create unnecessary barriers to students participating in any aspect of Academy life, including educational visits, e.g. by requiring parents/carers to accompany their child
- ✓ Administer, or ask students to administer, medicine in Academy toilets.

### **Emergency procedures**

Staff will follow the Academy's normal emergency procedures (for example, calling 999). All students' IHPs will clearly set out what constitutes an emergency and will explain what to do. If a student needs to be taken to hospital, staff will stay with the student until the parent/carer arrives, or accompany the student to hospital by ambulance.

### **Training**

Staff who are responsible for supporting students with medical needs will receive suitable and sufficient training to do so. The training will be identified during the development or review of IHPs. Staff who provide support to students with medical conditions will be included in meetings where this is discussed. The relevant healthcare professionals will lead on identifying the type and level of training required and will agree this with headteacher. Training will be kept up to date.

### **Record keeping**

Records are kept where the Academy has provided medication to a child. This is stored on EVOLVE AccidentBook.

### **Liability and indemnity**

The LGB will ensure that the appropriate level of insurance is in place and appropriately reflects the Academy's level of risk.

**Complaints**

Parents/carers with a complaint about their child's medical condition should discuss these with the child's Personal Tutor. The Personal Tutor may refer the complaint to the child's Head of Year, who will direct parents/carers to the Academy complaints procedure if this cannot be resolved by them or a member of the Senior Leadership Group.

**Monitoring arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed as necessary and at least every 12 months.