

SUPPORTING CHILDREN WITH MEDICAL NEEDS POLICY SUMMERSWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Reviewed Sept 2026

Next Review Date: Sept
2027

Location of Policy: The policy is available in the First Aid room in the main building.

1. Definition

Pupils' medical needs may be broadly summarised as being of two types:

- a) **Short-term:** affecting their participation in school activities, which they are on a course of medication.
- b) **Long-term:** potentially limiting their access to education and requiring extra care and support.

2. Aims

The aims of this policy are:

- To ensure that Summerswood Primary School complies with the requirements of statutory guidance and that they are implemented effectively within the school;
- To ensure that our expectations of every pupil with medical needs and/or disabilities are sufficiently high and they are presented with maximum opportunity to achieve economic wellbeing.

The specific aims/objectives of our Medical Needs Policy are as follows:

- To support pupils with medical conditions, so that they have full access to education, including physical education and educational visits.
- To ensure that school staff involved in the care of children with medical needs are fully informed and adequately trained by a professional, in order to administer support or prescribe medication.
- To comply fully with the Equality Act 2010 for pupils who may have disabilities or special educational needs.
- To write, in association with healthcare professionals, parents and students Individual Healthcare Plans where necessary.
- To respond sensitively, discreetly and quickly to situations where a child with a medical condition requires support.
- To keep, monitor and review appropriate records.

Objectives of the Governing Body in making provision for pupils with SEN:

- Do its best to ensure that the necessary provision is made for any pupil who has a medical condition.
- Make sure that all staff are aware of the importance of identifying and making provision for pupils with medical conditions.
- Make sure that Parents and Carers are notified of a decision by the school that medical provision is being made for their child.
- Make sure pupils with medical conditions experience a broad and balanced curriculum alongside all other pupils, so far as is reasonably practical.
- Make sure, where the SENCo has been informed that a pupil has a medical condition, those needs are made known to all relevant staff.
- Ensure that all staff are aware of the Medical Needs Policy of Summerswood Primary School.
- Ensure the school's Medical Needs Policy is accessible to all students, staff and parents.

3. Admission Arrangements

The Governing Body has agreed with the Local Authority admission criteria, which do not discriminate against pupils with medical needs or disabilities and its Admission Policy has due regard for the statutory guidance 2014. Parents or Carers seeking the admission of a pupil with mobility difficulties are advised to approach the school well in advance so that consultations can take place.

4. Co-ordination of Summerswood Primary School's Medical Needs Provision

It is the responsibility of the SENCo to monitor the provision of education for pupils with medical needs at the school.

5. Arrangements for Coordinating the Provision of Education for Pupils with Medical Needs at Summerswood Primary School

a) Identification:

The named person responsible for implementing the policy will ensure that the individual medical needs of students, where appropriate, is suitably recorded via an Individual Health Care Plan.

Students who make a Mid-Year Application to Summerswood Primary School:

For children starting at the school through the mid-year application process the identification of medical needs of the student will be collected through completion of the admission form. If medical needs are required these will be discussed during the initial meeting with the school secretary and health care professional, if required. If the need to complete an Individual Health Care Plan is required, a designated member of staff will attend to ensure the child has full access to their curriculum offer.

Provision/Action

Individual Health Care Plans will help to ensure that Summerswood Primary School effectively supports students 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 staff, healthcare professionals and parent/carer 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.

Individual healthcare plans, (and their review), may be initiated, in consultation with the parent/carer, by a member of school staff or a healthcare professional involved in providing care to the child. Plans will be drawn up in partnership between the school, parent/carer, and a relevant healthcare professional, e.g. school, specialist or children's community nurse, who can best advise on the particular needs of the child. Students should also be involved, whenever appropriate.

Summerswood Primary School will ensure that plans are reviewed at least annually or earlier if evidence is presented that the child's needs have changed. They 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 social wellbeing and minimises disruption. Where the child has a special educational need identified in an EHC Plan, the Individual Health Care Plan should be linked to or become part of that EHC Plan.

Where a child is returning to school following a period of hospital education or alternative provision (including home tuition), Summerswood Primary School will work with the Local Authority and education provider to ensure that the Individual Health Care Plan identifies the support the child will need to reintegrate effectively.

Information on the Individual Health Care Plans includes:

- The medical condition, its triggers, signs, symptoms and treatments;
- The student'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
- 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 will be clearly stated with appropriate arrangements for monitoring; including supervision by an appropriate adult.
- Arrangements for written permission from parent/carers for medication to be administered by a member of staff, or self-administered by the student during school hours;

- 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 Health Care Plan.

7. Roles and Responsibilities of Staff and Outside Agencies

a) Governing Bodies

- Must make arrangements to support students with medical conditions in school, including making sure that a policy for supporting students with medical conditions in school is developed and implemented.
- They should ensure that a student with medical conditions is supported to enable the fullest participation possible in all aspects of school life.
- Governing Bodies should ensure that sufficient staff have received suitable training and are competent before they take on responsibility to support children with medical conditions.

b) Headteacher

- Will ensure that Summerswood Primary School's policy is developed and effectively implemented with partners. This includes ensuring that all staff are aware of the policy for supporting students with medical conditions and understand their role in its implementation. The Headteacher will ensure that all staff who need to know are aware of the child's condition.
- Will 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.
- Will ensure staff are appropriately insured and are aware that they are insured to support students in this way, 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.

c) School Staff

- Any member of staff may be asked to provide support to students 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 students with medical conditions that they teach.
- 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.
- Staff should know what to do and respond accordingly when they become aware that a student with a medical condition needs help.

d) School Nurses

Summerswood Primary 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.

e) Other Healthcare Professionals, including GPs and Paediatricians

Summerswood Primary School 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 healthcare plans.

f) Students

Students 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.

g) Parents

- Should provide Summerswood Primary 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. Parents/carers must complete the parental consent form if they are instructing school staff to administer medication to their child.

Staffing Arrangements and Training

Summerswood Primary School recognises and is clear that any member of school staff providing support to a student with medical needs should have received suitable training. This will be identified during the development or review of Individual Healthcare Plans. It may be that some staff 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 students with medical conditions will be included in meetings where this is discussed. The relevant healthcare professional will be invited to lead on identifying and agreeing with Summerswood Primary School, the type and level of training required, and how this can be obtained. Summerswood Primary School may choose to arrange training themselves and will ensure this remains up-to-date.

- Training of staff should be sufficient to ensure that staff are competent and have confidence in their ability to support students 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.
- Healthcare professionals, including the School Nurse, can provide confirmation of the proficiency of staff in a medical procedure, or in providing medication.
- Induction arrangements for new staff should be included. The relevant healthcare professional will be invited to advise on training that will help ensure that all medical conditions affecting students in Summerswood Primary 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 staff about how their child's needs can be met, and parents/carers will be asked for their views.

8. Student Management of Medical Needs

Summerswood Primary School recognises that some children will be competent to manage their own health needs and medicines. After discussion with parents/carers, children who are competent will be encouraged to take responsibility for managing their own medicines and procedures. This decision will be reflected within Individual Healthcare Plans.

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, then trained staff should help to administer medicines and manage procedures for them.

If a child refuses to take medicine or carry out a necessary procedure, school staff should not force them to do so, but follow the procedure agreed in the Individual Healthcare Plan. Parent/carers should be informed so that alternative options can be considered.

9. Managing Medicines on School Premises

Summerswood Primary School takes a clear stance on medicines that are brought onto the school site: 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 or carer's written consent. The school policy highlights 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.
- Where clinically possible, medicines should be prescribed in dose frequencies which enable them to be taken outside school hours.
- The school will only accept prescribed medicines that 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. 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 educational visits.
- Summerswood Primary School will keep controlled drugs (i.e. Ritalin) that have been prescribed for a student 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 in school.
- Summerswood Primary 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.
- When no longer required, medicines should be returned to the parent/carer to arrange for safe disposal. Sharps boxes should always be used for the disposal of needles and other sharps.

10. Statutory Record Keeping in line with Government Guidance

Written records are kept of all medicines administered to children. Records offer protection to staff and children and provide evidence that agreed procedures have been followed. Parents/carers should be informed if their child has been unwell at school.

11. Emergency Procedures

Where a child has an Individual Healthcare Plan, this should clearly define what constitutes an emergency and explain what to do, including ensuring that all relevant staff are aware of emergency symptoms and procedures. Other students in the school should know what to do in general terms, such as informing a teacher immediately if they think help is needed. If a child needs to be taken to hospital, staff should stay with the child until the parent/carer arrives, or accompany a child taken to hospital by ambulance.

12. Managing Medical Needs Offsite

Teachers and other school staff should be aware of how a child's medical condition will impact on their participation, but there should be enough flexibility for all children to participate according to their own abilities and with any reasonable adjustments.

Summerswood Primary School will make arrangements for the inclusion of students in such activities with any adjustments as required, unless evidence from a Clinician, such as a GP states that this is not possible.

Summerswood Primary School will consider what reasonable adjustments they might make to enable children with medical needs to participate fully and safely on visits. It is best practice to carry out a Risk Assessment so that planning arrangements take account of any steps needed to ensure that students with medical conditions are included. This will require consultation with parents/carers and students, and advice from the relevant healthcare professional to ensure that students can participate safely. Summerswood Primary School will also use the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) guidance on school trips.

13. Unacceptable Practice

Although staff should use their discretion and judge each case individually with reference to the child's Individual Healthcare 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 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 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 life, including school trips, e.g. by requiring parents to accompany the child.

15. Concerns or Complaints from Parents

Arrangements made by the Governing Body relating to treatment of concerns or complaints from parents/carers of pupils with medical needs concerning the provision made at the school, should in the first instance be directed to the SENCo. However, should a parent/carer feel that their complaint has not been dealt with satisfactorily by the SENCo, they have the right to refer the matter to the Head Teacher and Governing Body.