



## **Supporting Students with Medical Needs Policy**

### **Aim**

The aim of this policy is to ensure that all students with medical conditions, in terms of both physical and mental health, are properly supported in school in order for them to play a full and active part in school life and enjoy the same opportunities as any other child, remain healthy and achieve their academic potential. This will require flexibility and we will therefore focus on the needs of the individual students and how their medical condition impacts on their school life.

### **Responsibilities**

Ruskin High School will seek medical advice and guidance on the procedures to support students to enable them to participate in school activities by establishing relationships with relevant local health services and professionals.

Some students with medical conditions may be disabled and we will comply with the Equality Act 2010, the Children & Families Act 2014 and Supporting Children at School with Medical Conditions 2014. Some may have special educational needs (SEND) and will be in receipt of a statement or Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan which brings together health and social care needs.

Students with long term or complex medical conditions may require on-going support, medicines or care whilst at school to help them manage their condition and keep them well. Some health needs may change over time resulting in extended absences affecting their educational attainment, impacting on their ability to integrate with their peers and affecting their general well-being and emotional health. Short term and frequent absences need to be effectively managed. Reintegration back into school will be supported to limit the impact on the student's attainment and emotional and general wellbeing.

We will work together with the student, parents/carers and medical professionals to develop individual healthcare plans as and when necessary. This will involve meetings with the Business Manager, SENDCO Manager, Site Officer, Form Tutors or Year Achievement Managers as appropriate.

The school nurse, provided by the Local Authority, is responsible for notifying the school when a child has been identified as having a medical condition. They will liaise with lead clinicians on appropriate support for the student and associated staff training needs.

Under Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 the LA/CCG's and Providers of health services, have a duty to promote co-operation with a view to improving the well-being of children relating to their physical and mental health, their education, training and recreation. They should provide support, advice and guidance, including suitable training for school staff, to ensure specified support can be delivered effectively.

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At Ruskin we expect parents/carers to advise the school of their child's specific medical needs prior to starting or upon diagnosis and provide up-to-date information.

Parents will not be made to feel obliged to attend school to administer medication or provide medical support to their child. The school, healthcare professional and parents/carers should agree, based on evidence, when a healthcare plan would be inappropriate or disproportionate. If consensus cannot be reached, the Headteacher will take a final view.

Healthcare plans will capture key information and actions required to support the student effectively. The level of detail required will depend on the complexity of the student's condition and the degree of support needed. When a student has SEN but not a statement or EHC plan, their needs should be mentioned in their IHP.

When developing a plan we will consider:

- Individual student's medical conditions, the triggers, signs, symptoms and treatments.
- The student's resulting needs including medication and other treatments, facilities, equipment, testing, access to food and drink where it is used to manage their condition, dietary requirements and environmental issues such as crowded corridors and travel time between lessons.
- Specific support for their educational, social and emotional needs in managing absences, extra time for completing exams, counselling and additional support to catch up with lessons.
- The level of support required including emergencies, emergency symptoms and procedures. If a student is self-managing their medication, this should be clearly stated with appropriate arrangements for monitoring.
- Determine who will provide this support, their training needs, consulting with healthcare professionals ensuring cover arrangements are in place when they are not available.

### **Records:**

Details will be recorded and held in our SIMS database and shared with staff. The information will be displayed in the staffroom and main office to preserve confidentiality.

The administration of medication by staff members or self-administration by a student requires written permission from parents/carers and the school. The "Request for the School to give Medication" form must be completed and can be obtained from the main office.

Students should be encouraged to take responsibility for managing their own medicines and procedures. They should be allowed to carry their own medicines and devices so they can access them quickly and easily but may require an appropriate level of supervision. Staff members will only be asked to be involved if there is no alternative.

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If a student refuses to take medicine or carry out a necessary procedure, staff should not force them to do so but parents should be informed so that alternative options can be considered.

The SENDCO is responsible for ensuring that sufficient staff are suitably trained and all relevant staff are made aware of students with medical conditions and that staff achieve the necessary level of competency before they take on the responsibility to support a student with a medical condition. Staff will require an understanding of the specific medical conditions that they are being asked to deal with, their implications and preventative measures. Staff must not give prescriptive medicines or undertake health care procedures without appropriate training. Inset will be utilised for raising awareness training. This policy will be shared during induction arrangements for all new staff. Parents may provide advice on training requirement but must not be the sole trainer.

For more information on managing medicines on school premises please see Administration of Medicine Policy.

Parents/Carer's must provide emergency contact information and contingency arrangements. This information must also be provided for any school trip the students attends.

Ruskin uses the EVOLVE system for risk assessments for school visits and other activities outside of the normal timetable and PRIME for accident reporting. Staff should be aware of how a student's medical condition will impact on their participation but there should be sufficient flexibility for all students to participate according to their own abilities and with reasonable adjustments. Parents/carers will be consulted and advice taken from relevant healthcare professionals to ensure the student can participate safely.

We will not deliberately create any barriers to prevent a student from participating in any aspects of school life including school trips by requiring a parent/carer to accompany the student.

The NHS ambulance service will be informed of the location of the onsite defibrillator (located in the Main Office).

This policy will be reviewed at least every two years and shared with all members of staff.

**Connected Policies:**

Administration of Medication [Guidance](#)