

Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions

Southend High School for Boys

1. Purpose

The aim of this document is 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 and achieve their potential.

In particular the purpose of this policy is to ensure children with medical conditions:

- ✓ attend school regularly;
- ✓ enjoy full access to the school curriculum and extra-curricular programmes; and
- ✓ receive support as appropriate.

In so doing, the goal is to overcome barriers that have (in some schools) prevented these aims, specifically by avoiding actions that:

- ✗ prevent children from participating, or create unnecessary barriers to children participating in any aspect of school life;
- ✗ assume that every child with the same condition requires the same treatment;
- ✗ ignore medical evidence or opinion (although this may be challenged) or ignore the views of the child or their parents;
- ✗ penalise children for their attendance record if their absences are related to their medical condition eg hospital appointments;
- ✗ send children with medical conditions home frequently or prevent them from staying for normal school activities, including lunch, unless this is specified in the Individual Healthcare Plan;
- ✗ prevent pupils from accessing medication or treatment whenever they need to in order to manage their medical condition effectively;
- ✗ require parents to provide support that could reasonably be provided by the school; and
- ✗ perpetuate, or inhibit, the recovery from (or treatment of) a medical condition.

In every instance, these goals can only be fulfilled through the agreed and shared commitment of school, pupil and parents with the guidance of medical practitioners and involvement of external agencies.

2. Context

The Children and Families Act 2014 places a duty on the Governing Body and Senior Leadership Team to make arrangements for supporting pupils at the school with medical conditions. Pupils with medical conditions cannot be denied admission or excluded from school on medical grounds alone unless accepting a child in school would be detrimental to the health of that child or others.

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 a statement or Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan. For children with SEN, this guidance should be read in conjunction with the Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice: 0 to 25 years, 2014.

This policy will be reviewed regularly and will be readily accessible to parents/carers and staff through the school website.

Should parents or pupils be dissatisfied with the support provided they should discuss their concerns directly with the school. If the issue is not resolved, a formal complaint via the school's complaint procedure should be made. After other attempts at resolution have been exhausted, a formal complaint can be made to the Department for Education only if it comes under the scope of section 496/497 of the Education Act 1996.

3. Scope and responsibilities

Supporting a child with a medical condition during school hours is not the sole responsibility of one person. Collaborative working arrangements and working in partnership will ensure that the needs of pupils with medical conditions are met effectively.

All staff will be expected to show a commitment and awareness of children's medical conditions.

The overall responsibility for the successful administering and implementation of this policy is delegated to the Deputy Headteacher (Pastoral), who is responsible for:

- ✓ ensuring that sufficient staff are suitably trained;
- ✓ cover arrangements in case of staff absence or staff turnover;
- ✓ inducting new staff;
- ✓ briefing supply teachers;
- ✓ risk assessments for school visits, holidays and other school activities outside of the normal timetable;
- ✓ and for the monitoring of Individual Healthcare Plans.

These duties will be undertaken, as appropriate, by the SENCo, teaching and support staff.

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

Medicines will be stored, accessed and administered according to the school protocol.

Pupils will be fully involved in discussions about their medical support needs and will contribute as much as possible to the development of their individual healthcare plan since they know best how their condition affects them. The school will work to promote amongst all pupils a sensitivity to those with medical conditions.

Some children are competent to manage their own health needs and medicines. The school, after discussion with parents, will encourage such children to take responsibility for managing their own medicines and procedures. Those children who take their medicines themselves or manage their own procedures may require an appropriate level of supervision.

If a child refuses to take medicine or carry out a necessary procedure then they should not be forced by staff. The procedure agreed in the Individual Healthcare Plan should be followed and parents informed so that alternative options can be considered.

Parents/carers will provide the school with up-to-date information about their child's medical needs. They will be involved in the development and review of their child's individual healthcare plan. They will carry out any action they have agreed to as part of its implementation and ensure they or another nominated adult are contactable at all times.

4. Procedures to be followed when Notification is received that a pupil has a medical condition

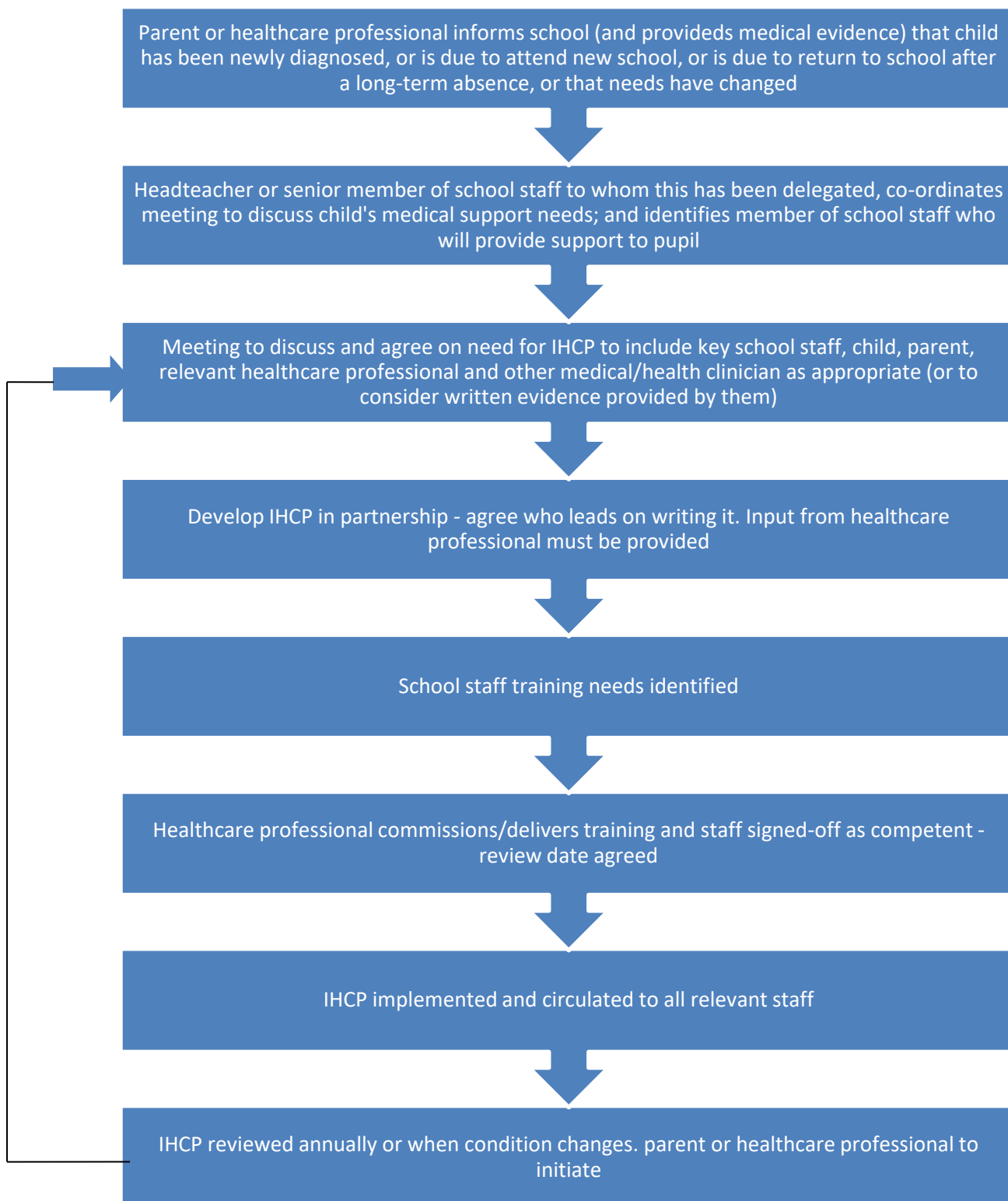
The school will follow the correct procedures when it is notified that a pupil has a medical condition. The procedures will also be in place to cover any transitional arrangements between schools, the process to be followed upon reintegration or when pupil's needs change and arrangements for any staff training or support.

Not all children will require an Individual Healthcare Plan. The school, healthcare professional and parent will agree when a healthcare plan would be appropriate, based on evidence. If consensus cannot be reached, the headteacher will take the final decision. A flow chart for identifying and agreeing the support a child needs and developing an Individual Healthcare Plan can be found at Annex A. Individual Healthcare Plans will often be essential in cases where conditions fluctuate or where there is a high risk that emergency intervention will be needed. They are likely to be helpful in the majority of other cases, especially where medical conditions are long-term and complex.

For pupils starting at the school, arrangements will be in place in time for the start of the relevant school term. In other cases, such as a new diagnosis or children moving to a new school mid-term, every effort will be made to ensure that arrangements are put in place within two weeks.

In cases where a pupil's medical condition is unclear, or where there is a difference of opinion, judgements will be made about what support to provide based on available evidence which would normally involve some form of medical evidence and consultation with parents.

Annex A: Model process for developing Individual Healthcare Plans



Annex B: Individual Healthcare Plan

The Individual Healthcare Plan supplements information already held in pupil records.

Additional contact details may be added.

The following template is a guide to be adapted according to need.

Name: Form: DoB:		
Medical Diagnosis or Condition and Medical Needs (details of symptoms, triggers, signs and treatments) (please provide medical evidence)		
Daily care requirements (including medication regime)		
Specific support for the pupil's educational, social and emotional needs		
Reasonable adjustments for full engagement in school activities		
Staff training (needed/already undertaken)		
Role of pupil	Role of parents	Role of other (external)