

ASHGATE CROFT SCHOOL

SUPPORTING PUPILS AT SCHOOL WITH MEDICAL CONDITIONS

Approved by Full Governors: 14.05.2019

Minute No.: 38/19

This policy should be read in conjunction with Health & Safety/Child Protection/Safeguarding/Looked After Children/ Allegations of Abuse/Moving & Handling/Recruitment/PSHE/Sex Education/Careers/Work Experience/Confidential reporting Code/Governors Induction/Staff Induction/Touch Policy

INTRODUCTION

Purpose

- To define how Ashgate Croft School meets the medical needs of its pupils.
- To focus on the needs of each individual pupil and how their medical condition impacts on their school life.
- To give parents/carers and pupils confidence in the school's ability to provide effective support for medical conditions in school.

Aims

- Ashgate Croft School aims to meet the medical needs of all its pupils, many of which are complex and to ensure these pupils are fully included in all aspects of school life.
- Ashgate Croft School aims to provide relevant training for relevant staff to enable medical needs to be met.
- Ashgate Croft School aims to network with relevant health professionals to assist with meeting the medical needs of its pupils.

SUPPORTING PUPILS AT SCHOOL WITH MEDICAL CONDITIONS – PROCEDURES AND PRACTICE

School Nurse

As a Special School, Ashgate Croft has a number of pupils with complex health needs .In recognition of this, a school nurse is employed to co-ordinate and support these needs, and her involvement is profiled in our Annual Medical Summary. First Aid cover is also provided in her absence and there are other staff trained to carry out all medical procedures currently required in school.

Training

All staff members who undertake medical procedures on pupils receive training and are assessed to ensure they are confident and competent prior to carrying out any care. Training to meet these medical needs both in and out of school (e.g. visits, outings etc) is provided by Derbyshire Children's Community Nursing Training Team, supported and coordinated by the School Nurse. This information is then recorded by the DCCNT and a copy is kept in school. All training is reviewed/updated annually, particularly prior to the start of an academic year when new medical conditions and training needs are identified.

Visiting Professionals

A number of Visiting Professionals (eg. Physiotherapy, Occupational therapy, and Speech and Language Therapy) also visits the school on regular basis to advise and support staff, and to provide written guidelines on meeting the needs of our pupils.

Information Sharing/Gathering

Any relevant medical information is shared (with parental consent) prior to a pupil starting at Ashgate Croft School in the following ways:-

- Parent/carers are asked to complete a form entitled "Vital Information in Case of Emergency" (Appendix 1). This form includes details of medical conditions, medication, allergies etc. This is then updated on an annual basis, or sooner if required.
- Ashgate Croft School also holds an Induction Afternoon for parent/carers of new pupils during the summer Term, prior to the start of the academic year. This gives parents/carers of new pupils the opportunity to discuss any medical concerns, and to ensure frameworks are in place to meet these needs. Visiting professionals are also invited to attend.
- Visits to other establishments and home visits are also made to gather background medical information.
- Medical professionals are encouraged to copy school into clinic letters and reports (with parental consent) and this information is then circulated between relevant staff.

Individual Health Care Plans

Individual Health Care Plans are in place where relevant for pupils with complex health needs. These are carried out by the relevant health professional, eg. School Nurse or Children's Community Nurse and are reviewed on an annual basis or earlier if evidence is presented that a pupil's needs have changed. A standardised format for Health Care Plans is used (Form 1, page 103 of Administration of Medicines in Schools). See Appendix 2. A Health Care Plan also outlines what should happen in an emergency.

Medication

Medication is administered and managed by the School Nurse, or a trained member of school staff following Derbyshire County Council's "Administration in Schools Policy" (April 2013) and School Medicines Policy (May 2019) and records are kept accordingly.

Liability and Indemnity

Insurance arrangements via the Local Authority covers staff who provide support to pupils with medical conditions provided that appropriate training has been undertaken. Any queries relating to medical cover are checked with Derbyshire County Council. Some specific medical procedures are carried out on a “named person only basis”

Complaints

If a parent/carer is unsatisfied with how their child’s medical needs are met, they should discuss their concerns directly with the school. If this does not resolve the issue, they should make a formal complaint via Ashgate Croft School’s complaints procedure, a copy of which can be found on the school’s website.

The child’s role in managing their own medical needs

As a Special School, Ashgate Croft does not have any pupils who are able to manage their own medical needs independently. However, we strive for them to participate as fully as possible, and to communicate effectively with them at all times when medical procedures are being carried out.

Inclusion

Whenever possible, if clinical procedures are being carried out, a pupil should still be able to access all their curriculum activities, including school trips and visits, so that there is no negative impact on their learning.

Policy Implementation/Roles and Responsibilities

The school’s policy will be implemented effectively and the School Nurse has overall responsibility for this. However, supporting a child with a medical condition is not the sole responsibility of one person. A school’s ability to provide effective support will depend on working cooperatively with other agencies. Partnership working between school staff, healthcare professionals, social care professionals, local authorities, parents and pupils are critical. Collaborative working arrangements between all those involved are highlighted Ashgate Croft School’s Annual Medical Summary

Unacceptable Practice

Although school staff should use their discretion and judge each case on its merits 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 reception or the therapy 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/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/carer should have to give up working because the school is failing to support their child's medical needs.
- 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.

Monitoring of the Policy

This policy will be reviewed on a bi-annual basis as part of the policy monitoring schedule.