

Supporting Children with Medical Conditions Policy



Date: July 2025

Review Frequency: Annually

Next Review: July 2026

Definition

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

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

School Ethos

Schools have a responsibility for the health and safety of pupils in their care. The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 makes employers responsible for the health and safety of employees and anyone else on the premises. In the case of pupils with special medical needs, the responsibility of the employer is to make sure that safety measures cover the needs of all pupils at the school. This may mean making special arrangements for particular pupils so that they can access their full and equal entitlement to all aspects of the curriculum. In this case, individual procedures may be required. Finham Primary School is responsible for making sure that relevant staff know about and are, if necessary, trained to provide any additional support that pupils with medical conditions (long or short term) may need. A record of all training should be kept in school. This is the responsibility of the Senior Leadership Team.

The Children and Families Act 2014 places a duty on schools to make arrangements for children with medical conditions. **Pupils with medical conditions have the same right of admission to school as other children and cannot be refused admission or excluded from school on medical grounds alone.** However, teachers and other school staff in charge of pupils have a common law duty to act 'in loco parentis' and must ensure the safety of all pupils in their care. To this end, we reserve the right to refuse admittance to a child with an infectious disease, where there may be a risk posed to others or to the health of the child involved. This duty also extends to teachers leading activities taking place off the school site.

The prime responsibility for a child's health lies with the parent, who is responsible for the child's medication and must supply the school with all relevant information needed in order for proficient care to be given to the child. The school takes advice and guidance from a range of sources, including the School Nurse, Health professionals and the child's GP in addition to the information provided by parents in the first instance. This enables us to ensure we assess and manage risk and minimise disruption to the learning of the child and others who may be affected, for example, other children in the class.

Our Aims

- 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 prescribed 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, 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

Unacceptable Practice

While school staff will use their professional discretion in supporting individual pupils, it is unacceptable to:

- Prevent children from accessing their medication, whether this be prescribed or non-prescribed medication
- Assume every child with the same condition requires the same treatment
- Ignore the views of the child or their parents / carers; ignore medical advice
- Prevent children with medical conditions accessing the full curriculum, unless specified in their Individual Healthcare plan
- Penalise children for their attendance record where this is related to a medical condition
- Prevent children from eating, drinking or taking toilet breaks where this is part of effective management of their condition
- Require parents to administer medicine where this interrupts their working day
- Require parents to accompany their child with a medical condition on a school trip as a condition of that child taking part

Entitlement

Finham Primary School provides full access to the curriculum for every child wherever possible. We believe that pupils with medical needs have equal entitlement and must receive necessary care and support so that they can take advantage of this. However, we also recognise that employees have rights in relation to supporting pupils with medical needs, as follows:

Employees may:

- Choose whether or not they wish to be involved

- Receive appropriate training
- Work to clear guidelines
- Bring to the attention of Senior Leadership any concern or matter relating to the support of pupils with medical conditions

Expectations

It is expected that:

- Parents will inform school of any medical condition which affects their child.
- Parents will supply school with appropriately prescribed medication, where the dosage information and regime is clearly printed by a pharmacy on the container
- Parents will ensure that medicines to be given in school are in date and clearly labelled
- Parents will co-operate in training their children to self-administer medicine if this is appropriate, and that staff members will only be involved if this is not possible
- Medical professionals involved in the care of children with medical needs will fully inform staff beforehand of the child's condition, its management and implications for the school life of that individual
- Finham Primary School will ensure that, where appropriate, children are involved in discussing the management and administration of their medicines and are able to access and administer their medicine if this is part of their Individual Healthcare plan (for example, an inhaler)
- School staff will check that medication is in date half termly and let parents know when the medication is running low.
- School staff will liaise as necessary with healthcare professionals and services in order to access the most up-to-date advice about a pupil's medical needs and will seek support and training in the interests of the pupil
- Transitional arrangements between schools will be completed in such a way that we will ensure full disclosure of relevant medical information, Healthcare plans and support needed in good time for the child's receiving school to adequately prepare
- Individual Healthcare plans will be written, monitored and reviewed regularly and will include the views and wishes of the child and parent in addition to the advice of relevant medical professionals

Procedure

The Governing Body of Finham Primary School ensures that an appropriate level of insurance is in place and reflects the level of risk presented by children with medical conditions. See Health and safety policy and public liability policy



Information

Children with serious medical conditions will have their photo and brief description of condition, along with any other necessary information (MNP form 7) in the staff handbook, for all staff. This must be kept in a locked cupboard in classrooms, but staff must ensure that all adults dealing with the child, including supply teachers, will have their attention drawn to this information. Parents will be informed on the Individual healthcare Plans/ Medication Plans that their child's image (with first name, only) and a summary of action to be taken in an emergency, may be shared with staff across the school. Parents will be asked to contact the school to discuss, if they are not happy for this to happen.

All Individual Healthcare Plans / Medication Plans are accessible in the kitchen for children with allergies to any types of food so that school meals are prepared accurately. Some different school meals could be provided for children who are coeliac to ensure that the dinner will meet their tolerance levels.

The Individual Healthcare Plan / Medication Plan (MNP form 1) is developed with the pupil (where appropriate), parent, school staff, specialist nurse (where appropriate) and relevant healthcare services. Individual Health Care plans will be put into place and the arrangements made with two weeks of the school being informed or a new child joining the school. If a child is starting at the start of a school term and the school knows about the medical needs prior to the term starting the plan and arrangements should be in place before the child starts at school. These will be monitored and reviewed by learning Mentor annually or sooner if medical information changes.

Individual Healthcare Plans /Medication Plans (MNP form 1) will be stored by staff as an appendix to their staff handbook. This must be kept in a locked cupboard in classrooms, but staff must ensure that all adults dealing with the child, including supply teachers, will have their attention drawn to this information.

All other medical conditions will be noted from children's SIMs records and this information will be provided to class teachers annually unless there is a change to a child in their class and then it will be updated promptly.

Where a child is returning to Finham Primary School following a period of hospital education or alternative provision (including home tuition), we will work with the local authority or education provider to ensure that the individual healthcare plan identifies the support the child will need to reintegrate effectively.

New members of staff and supply staff will be informed about children in the setting who have medical needs and made aware of how to find out which staff have first aid training and who are able to administer medicine. Information about children across

the school with serious medical conditions will be available in all copies of the staff handbook (MNP form 7), which is updated regularly. Individual Healthcare Plans /Medication Plans (MNP form 1) for children in a particular class, will be stored as an appendix to the class teacher's copy of the staff handbook.

In an emergency

In a medical emergency, the school's First Aiders, will be asked to attend.

If an ambulance needs to be called, staff will:

- Outline the full condition and how it occurred
- Give details regarding the child's date of birth, address, parents' names and any known medical conditions.

Children will be accompanied to hospital by a member of staff if this is deemed appropriate. Staff cars should not be used for this purpose. Parents must always be called in a medical emergency, but do not need to be present for a child to be taken to hospital.

Administration of medicines

Only essential medicines will be administered during the school day. Parents must Request for the school to administer medication using a form (MNP form 2) before any medicine is administered. Medicines to be given during the school day must be in their original container, within the use by date, labelled and include instructions for administration, dosage and storage. Controlled drugs can also be administered, subject to all other conditions as described in the Policy.

Essential medicines will be administered on Educational Visits, subject to the conditions above. A risk assessment may be needed before the visit takes place. Staff supervising the visit will be responsible for safe storage and administration of the medicine during the visit.

Trained and named staff members will give medicines (MNP form 5). Before administering any medicine, staff must check that the medicine belongs to the child, must check that the dosage they are giving is correct, and that written permission has been given. Any child refusing to take medicine in school will not be made to do so, and parents will be informed about the dose being missed. All doses administered will be recorded on the - *Record of medicines administered to all children* and *Record of medication administered to an individual child* forms. (MNP forms 3 and 4)

All medicines will be stored safely. Medicines needing refrigeration will be stored in the fridge.

Controlled drugs or prescribed medicines will be kept in the medicine cupboard in the office. Access to these medicines is restricted to the named persons.

Epi-pens are kept in the medicine cupboard in the office. In the case of Epi-Pens all staff have access to the box which is clearly labelled and accessible.

Children self-administering asthma inhalers do not need to be recorded. Inhalers are kept in the office. Children have access to these inhalers at all times, though must inform a member of staff that they are taking a dose. All inhalers are marked with the child's name. All children with an inhaler must take them on educational visits, however short in duration.

Epi-pen – Any member of staff, who has received epi-pen training, can administer an epi-pen in an emergency (MNP form 5).

The pen (cap off) should be pushed against the child's thigh, through clothing if necessary. The pen should be held for a count of 10 seconds before being withdrawn. Ambulances must be called for a child who may require an epi-pen. If prescribed, Cetrizine may be given if slight tingling of the lips occurs following ingestion of possible irritants for nut allergy sufferers. This is a liquid medicine stored with the epi-pen. If symptoms are more severe, the epi-pen should be given immediately. An ambulance must be called immediately. Parents should be contacted after this call has been made.

When no longer required, medicines should be returned to the parents to arrange for safe disposal. Sharps boxes should always be used for the disposal of needles and other sharps.

Trained Staff

Finham Primary School ensures that it has a suitable number of first aiders in school at all times. There are a number of staff who have completed the full certificate and others who have completed the Paediatric First Aid. An updated list detailing the names of staff and qualifications held are displayed in the office. All first aiders can be responsible for administering medication when needed. See First Aid policy.

Complaints

Should parents be unhappy with any aspect of their child's care at Finham Primary School, they must discuss their concerns with the school. This will be with the child's class teacher in the first instance, with whom any issues should be managed. If this does not resolve the problem or allay concern, the problem should be brought to a member of the inclusion team, who will, where necessary, bring concerns to the attention of the Senior Leadership Team. In the unlikely event of this not resolving the issue, the parents must make a formal complaint using our Complaints Procedure.

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Please note the following quotations from the County Code of Practice regarding the administration of medicines at school.

- Children who are acutely ill and require a short course of medication e.g. antibiotics, will normally remain at home until the course is finished. If it is felt by a medication practitioner that the child is fit enough to return to school, the dosage can usually be adjusted so that none is required at lunchtime.
- No medicine should be administered unless clear written instructions to do so have been obtained from the parents or legal guardians and the school has indicated that it is able to do so. It must be understood that all staff are acting voluntarily in administering medicines.

Next review date:

July 2026

Signed:



RACHEL CROW

Chair of Governors

Signed:



SARAH BRACKEN

Headteacher

Finham Primary School Individual healthcare plan

Name of school/setting

Child's name

Group/class/form Date of birth

Child's address

Medical diagnosis or condition

Date

Review date

Family Contact Information

Name

Phone no. (work)

(home)

(mobile)

Name

Relationship to child

Phone no. (work)

(home)

(mobile)

Clinic/Hospital Contact

Name

Phone no.

G.P.

Name

Phone no.

Who is responsible for providing support in school

Describe medical needs and give details of child's symptoms, triggers, signs, treatments, facilities, equipment or devices, environmental issues etc

Name of medication, dose, method of administration, when to be taken, side effects, contraindications, administered by/self-administered with/without supervision



Daily care requirements

Specific support for the pupil's educational, social and emotional needs

Arrangements for school visits/trips etc

Other information

Describe what constitutes an emergency, and the action to take if this occurs

Who is responsible in an emergency (*state if different for off-site activities*)

Plan developed with

Staff training needed/undertaken – who, what, when

Form copied to

Please note: in order to ensure the safety of your child at all times, if your child has a serious, potentially life-threatening medical need, your child's image (with first name, only) and a summary of action to be taken in an emergency, may be shared with staff across the school. If you are not happy for this to happen, please call the school to discuss.

Finham Primary School parental agreement for setting to administer medicine

The school/setting will not give your child medicine unless you complete and sign this form, and the school or setting has a policy that the staff can administer medicine.

Date for review to be initiated by	
Name of school/setting	
Name of child	
Date of birth	
Group/class/form	
Medical condition or illness	

Medicine

Name/type of medicine <i>(as described on the container)</i>	
Expiry date	
Dosage and method	
Timing	
Special precautions/other instructions	
Are there any side effects that the school/setting needs to know about?	
Self-administration – y/n	
Procedures to take in an emergency	

NB: Medicines must be in the original container as dispensed by the pharmacy

Contact Details

Name	
Daytime telephone no.	
Relationship to child	
Address	
I understand that I must deliver the medicine personally to	[agreed member of staff]

The above information is, to the best of my knowledge, accurate at the time of writing and I give consent to school/setting staff administering medicine in accordance with the school/setting policy. I will inform the school/setting immediately, in writing, if there is any change in dosage or frequency of the medication or if the medicine is stopped.

Signature(s) _____

Date

Finham Primary School record of medicine administered to an individual child

Name of school/setting	
Name of child	
Date medicine provided by parent	
Group/class/form	
Quantity received	
Name and strength of medicine	
Expiry date	
Quantity returned	
Dose and frequency of medicine	
Staff signature	

Signature of parent _____

Date			
Time given			
Dose given			
Staff administering			
Staff initials			
Witnessed by			

Date			
Time given			
Dose given			
Staff administering			
Staff initials			
Witnessed by			

C: Record of medicine administered to an individual child (Continued)

Date			
Time given			
Dose given			
Staff administering			
Staff initials			
Witnessed by			
Date			
Time given			
Dose given			
Staff administering			
Staff initials			
Witnessed by			
Date			
Time given			
Dose given			
Staff administering			
Staff initials			
Witnessed by			
Date			
Time given			
Dose given			
Staff administering			
Staff initials			
Witnessed by			

Finham Primary School staff training record – administration of medicines



Name of school/setting

Name

Type of training received

Date of training completed

Training provided by

Profession and title

I confirm that _____ [name of member of staff] has received the training detailed above and is competent to carry out any necessary treatment. I recommend that the training is updated.

Trainer's signature _____

Date _____

I confirm that I have received the training detailed above.

Staff signature _____

Date _____

Suggested review date _____

Finham Primary School guidance for contacting emergency services

Request an ambulance - dial 999, ask for an ambulance and be ready with the information below.

Speak clearly and slowly and be ready to repeat information if asked.

1. your telephone number
2. your name
3. your location as follows [insert school/setting address]
4. state what the postcode is – please note that postcodes for satellite navigation systems may differ from the postal code
5. provide the exact location of the patient within the school setting
6. provide the name of the child and a brief description of their symptoms
7. inform Ambulance Control of the best entrance to use and state that the crew will be met and taken to the patient
8. put a completed copy of this form by the phone

MNP form 6

Finham Primary School model letter inviting parents to contribute to individual healthcare plan development

Dear Parent

DEVELOPING AN INDIVIDUAL HEALTHCARE PLAN FOR YOUR CHILD

Thank you for informing us of your child's medical condition. I enclose a copy of the school's policy for supporting pupils at school with medical conditions for your information.

A central requirement of the policy is for an individual healthcare plan to be prepared, setting out what support the each pupil needs and how this will be provided. Individual healthcare plans are developed in partnership between the school, parents, pupils, and the relevant healthcare professional who can advise on your child's case. The aim is to ensure that we know how to support your child effectively and to provide clarity about what needs to be done, when and by whom. Although individual healthcare plans are likely to be helpful in the majority of cases, it is possible that not all children will require one. We will need to make judgements about how your child's medical condition impacts on their ability to participate fully in school life, and the level of detail within plans will depend on the complexity of their condition and the degree of support needed. A meeting to start the process of developing your child's individual health care plan has been scheduled for xx/xx/xx. I hope that this is convenient for you and would be grateful if you could confirm whether you are able to attend. The meeting will involve [the following people]. Please let us know if you would like us to invite another medical practitioner, healthcare professional or specialist and provide any other evidence you would like us to consider at the meeting as soon as possible.

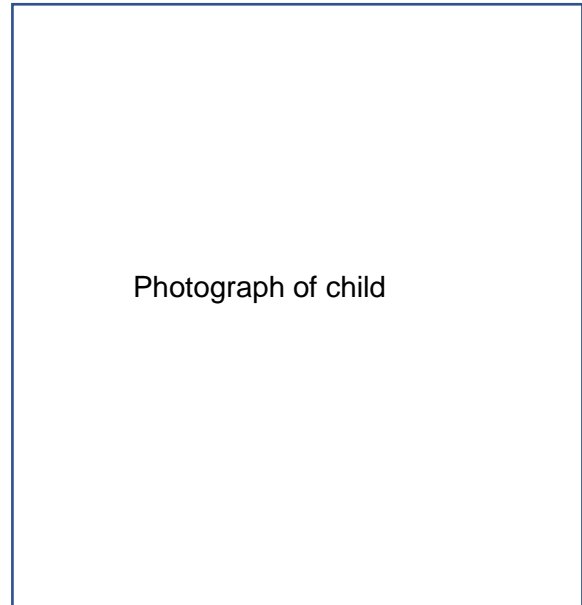
If you are unable to attend, it would be helpful if you could complete the attached individual healthcare plan template and return it, together with any relevant evidence, for consideration at the meeting. I [or another member of staff involved in plan development or pupil support] would be happy for you contact me [them] by email or to speak by phone if this would be helpful.

Yours sincerely

MNP form 7

Finham Primary School Serious medical needs summary for staff handbook.

Name of child	
Year	
Medical need/condition	



Summary of child's symptoms, triggers, signs, treatments, facilities, equipment or devices, environmental issues etc	
Name of medication, dose, method of administration, when to be taken, side effects, contraindications, administered by/self-administered with/without supervision	
Medicine location	
Describe what constitutes an emergency, and the action to take if this occurs	