

Sonning Church of England Primary School

MEDICAL NEEDS IN EDUCATION POLICY



(This policy should be read in conjunction with the school policies for meeting the needs of children with special educational needs, the policy for administering medicines in school and the disability, race and equality scheme)

Aim of Policy:

At Sonning Church of England Primary School we are committed to providing pupils with access to education whatever their medical or individual needs. This policy details the ways in which we will achieve this.

Description:

This Policy clarifies the definitions of pupils with medical needs, as well as the ways in which Sonning School will work with pupils and their families to ensure they have access to education at all times and in ways that are applicable to their individual needs and requirements.

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1.0 Introduction

(This policy should be read in conjunction with the school policies for meeting the needs of children with special educational needs, the policy for administering medicines in school and the disability, race and equality scheme)

At Sonning Church of England Primary School we are committed to providing pupils with access to education whatever their medical or individual needs. We believe that all children should have access to as much education as their particular medical condition allows so that they maintain the momentum of their learning whether they are attending school or going through periods of treatment and recuperation.

2.0 Definition of Medical Needs

For the purpose of this policy, pupils with medical needs are:

- children with chronic or short-term medical conditions involving specific treatments or forms of supervision during the course of the school day, or
- sick children, including those who are physically ill or injured or are recovering from medical interventions, or
- children with mental health problems.

3.0 Named Person

It is a requirement that each school has a named person who leads on the implementation of the policy for children with medical needs. At this time it will be the Headteacher who takes this responsibility.

He/She will be the person with whom parents/carers will discuss particular arrangements to be made in connection with the medical needs of a child. It will be his/her responsibility to pass on information to the relevant members of staff.

4.0 Partnership with Parents/Carers and Children

- Parent/ carers hold key information and knowledge and have a crucial role to play. Both parents and pupils will be involved in the process of making decisions.
- Parents/ carers are asked to keep the school informed about any changes in the treatment their children are receiving, including changes in medication.
- Parents/ carers will be kept informed about arrangements in school and about contacts made with outside agencies.
- There should be consultation before any home tuition begins.



5.0 Absence as a result of a Medical Condition

- In cases where pupils are absent for periods less than 15 working days, parents/ carers will follow the normal arrangements for informing the school. If the period of absence is less than 15 days, it is the parent's responsibility to obtain work from the school. The class teacher can liaise with the parents/ carers
- Where an absence exceeds 15 working days, the school will inform the Head of the Vulnerable Children's Education Services (VCES) and the Education Welfare Officer (EWO). At the appropriate time the parents will need to provide the school with a letter from a medical consultant containing details of the medical condition or intervention and information about the estimated period of absence.
- If a child is to be admitted to hospital for a period longer than 5 working days, then wherever possible the named person/ class teacher will liaise with the hospital school giving information which may include the term's plan, objectives/ targets and assessments if appropriate.

6.0 Arrangements for Access to Education in the case of a long-term absence

- It is essential that parents/carers inform the school at the earliest opportunity if it is anticipated that an absence will be long-term (exceeding 15 working days).
- When an absence of more than 15 working days can be predicted, arrangements for continuing the children's education will be made by the named person. After speaking to the parents/ carers, he/she will contact the EWO and Vulnerable Children's Education Services. He/She will then provide information that will inform staff about the child's needs, enabling them to plan appropriate provision.
- Home Tuition will start as soon as is practicable. Pupils educated at home will receive a minimum of 5 hours teaching per week. This is intensive one-to-one teaching and is normally as much as a child recovering from illness, injury or surgery can benefit from. In exceptional cases, the amount of tuition may be increased if the Home Tuition Service has the capacity at the time.
- In cases where a child has recurrent or regular treatment and is away from school for a number of shorter periods, the named person will contact VCES.
- The school, with the parents/ carers' cooperation, will maintain contact with the children who are unable to attend. Use may be made of the Learning Platform
- The school will continue to monitor the progress of children who are unable to attend.

7.0 Reintegration following Absence for Medical Treatment

- As with the notification of absence, it is very important that parents give the school as much notice as possible about the child's date of return to school.
- For some children, reintegration will be a gradual process. A child may start with a short visit to school and gradually increase the time spent in class as s/he progresses. Where mobility and independence are reduced, or where additional medical procedures are involved, a preliminary visit will help to establish whether there are any accessibility /safety issues that need to be addressed before a date is fixed for the child's return.
- If it seems as though a child will have significant medical needs for the foreseeable future, it may be necessary to consider making a request for statutory assessment under the Code of Practice (Pupils with Medical Needs). There will be consultation with the parents on this matter.



8.0 Identification of Medical Needs

- Most medical needs will be identified by the parents in consultation with a medical professional outside school.
- Any medical concerns the school has about a child will be raised with the parents/ carers. Most parents will wish to deal with medical matters themselves through their GP.

