

# Medical Conditions Policy

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## 1.0 Policy statement

Dixons Academy Trust is committed to ensuring all students are fully supported at all times so they can access and be successful in their learning. DFE guidance makes it clear that schools have a statutory duty to make arrangements to support students with medical and health conditions, these duties apply equally to learning inside and outside of the classroom.

In addition Dixons Academies Trust is committed to ensuring parents and students are supported with a range of medical conditions including long-term complex medical conditions which may require on-going support. Complex medical conditions can be life threatening and they can have a significant impact on a student's ability to learn. This policy should be read in conjunction with each academy's SEND policy.

## 2.0 Scope and purpose

All academies are expected to devise a policy to promote equal access to the curriculum regardless of medical or health needs and to:

- ensure that staff have access to appropriate training and resources to provide appropriate care for those with medical and health needs
- ensure that all students have opportunity to develop socially, morally, culturally as well academically during their education

It is important that academies minimise the educational impacts and the social and emotional implications associated with medical conditions. Students may be self-conscious about their condition/s and some may be bullied or develop emotional disorders such as anxiety and depression around their medical condition.

## 3.0 Legislation and department for education guidance

Our policy is underpinned by and compliant with:

- Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions 2015
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs 2013
- Guidance on first aid for schools: a good practical guide 2014

## 4.0 Procedures

4.1 When the academy is notified a student has a medical condition the SENDCo will be made aware without delay. The SENDCo will make contact with the family to find out more about the condition and how it may impact upon the student educationally, socially and emotionally.

4.2 Appropriate staff will liaise with where appropriate with relevant health care professionals to obtain a full picture of the students' needs, barriers and to identify support that school can put in place.

4.3 If the young person does not already have a Health Care Plan, the academy will likely create an Individual Health Care Profile (IHCP) for those students who: have a long term and complex medical condition, a medical condition which fluctuates, a medical condition with is recurring or there is a high risk that emergency intervention will be required. Not all students with a medical condition will require an IHCP. It will be agreed with a healthcare professional and the parents when an IHCP would be inappropriate or disproportionate. This will be based on evidence. If there is not a consensus, the Principal will make the final decision. An Individual Health Care Profile will include the following information:

- the medical condition, its triggers, signs, symptoms and treatments
- the level of support needed to access the curriculum (for example interventions or additional adult support)
- specific support for the students social and emotional needs as needed (including access arrangement, counselling and a named key worker)
- use of EVAC chairs if needed when leaving the building in an emergency
- arrangements for any medication that needs to be administered of self-administered during school hours
- arrangement or procedures required for school trips or other activities outside the normal school timetable that will ensure the child can participate e.g. meeting with families to inform a risk assessment and ensure that families know the full detail of the visit, staff should heed advice and warning from others and be provided with a full risk assessment
- at least three contacts in the case of an emergency situation (this will be stored on the academies Management Information System)

4.4 Academies can only accept prescribed medicines that are in date and clearly labelled in the original container as dispensed by a pharmacist with clear instructions for administration, dosage and storage. Non-prescription medicines will only be administered at academies where we have written consent from parent / carer and when it would be detrimental to the student's health or academy attendance not to do so.



Academies must keep a written record of all medicines administered to individual children, stating who administered the medication, when and how much was given. If appropriate and competent to do so, after consultation with the parents, students are allowed to carry and administer their own medication. They may require an appropriate level of supervision to do so. The students must not pass it on to another child, so monitoring arrangements may be necessary.

- 4.5 If the student is expected to be absent for more than 15 schools' days the Academy will liaise with the Local Authority to ensure that students receives as normal education as possible while she or he is absent. A range of options can be made available including home teaching, a hospital school or teaching service. The academy will do regular home visits to those students who are at home but cannot attend school. The visits are important to ensure the student maintains a connection with staff and the academy.
- 4.6 If a student needs to be taken to hospital, at least one member of staff will stay the student until the parent arrives, or accompany the child taken to hospital by ambulance.
- 4.7 Students will never be penalised if their absence from school is related to their medical condition, such as attending hospital appointments. In order to avoid a penalty for non-attendance, parents must obtain permission from the academy in advance of the appointment, so that the absence can be treated as authorised. An absence can also be authorised if the child is too ill to attend school and the school is notified of that as soon as possible.

## **5.0 Working with health professionals**

- 5.1 When a decision has been made to create a healthcare plan the SENDCo will liaise with the academy nursing service in order to successfully implement a student's health plan. Academy nurses can liaise with lead clinicians locally on appropriate support for the student and may be a source of training for academy based staff. Community nursing team may also be contacted depending on the conditions they can be valuable resource for academies seeking advice and support.
- 5.2 Other healthcare professionals, including GPs and paediatricians, may provide advice on developing individual healthcare plans. Specialist local health teams may be able to provide support in academies for children with particular conditions (e.g. asthma, diabetes, epilepsy).

## **6.0 Working with families**

Parents should provide the school with sufficient and up-to-date information about their child's medical needs. Parents are key partners and will be involved in the development and review of their child's individual healthcare plan, and may be involved in its drafting. They should carry out any action they have agreed to as part of its implementation, e.g. provide medicines and equipment and ensure they or another nominated adult are contactable at all times.

## **7.0 Working with students**

Students with medical conditions will often be best placed to provide information about how their condition affects them. They should be fully involved in discussions about their medical support needs and contribute as much as possible to the development of, and comply with, their individual healthcare plan.

## **8.0 Roles and responsibilities**

The SENDCo will take a lead on ensuring students with medical and health condition are supported in school and have a plan which reflects the needs of the child. The SENDCo will hold a review of a health care plan annually ensuring students and families voices are captured.

## **9.0 Monitoring and review**

Provision for students with medical and health needs will be monitored by the appropriate Senior Leader in the academy. The policy will be formally reviewed on an annual basis and any changes will be communicated to the Local Governing Body.

