



Medication and Supporting Medical Conditions policy

September 2024



World Alternative Education wishes to ensure that pupils with medical conditions receive appropriate care and support at school. All pupils have an entitlement to a full-time curriculum or as much as their medical condition allows. This policy has been developed in line with the Department for Education's statutory guidance released in April 2014 – 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions' under a statutory duty form section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014. The statutory duty came into force on 1st September 2014.

The school will have a regard to the statutory guidance issued. We take account of it; carefully consider it and we make all efforts to comply.

Ofsted places a clear emphasis on meeting the needs of pupils with SEN and Disabilities, also including those pupils with medical conditions.

Key Roles and Responsibilities

A. The Local Authority (LA) is responsible for:

1. Promoting co-operation between relevant partners regarding supporting pupils with medical conditions.
2. Providing support, advice/guidance and training to schools and their staff to ensure Individual Healthcare Plans (IHP) are effectively delivered.
3. Working with schools to ensure pupils attend full-time or make alternative arrangements for the education of pupils who need to be out of school for fifteen days or more due to a health need and who otherwise would not receive a suitable education.

B. World is responsible for:

1. Ensuring arrangements are in place to support pupils with medical conditions.
2. Ensuring the policy is developed collaboratively across services clearly identifies roles and responsibilities and is implemented effectively.
3. Ensuring that the Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy does not discriminate on any grounds including, but not limited to protected characteristics: ethnicity/national/origin, religion or belief, sex, gender reassignment, pregnancy & maternity, disability or sexual orientation.
4. Ensuring the policy covers arrangements for pupils who are competent to manage their own health needs.
5. Ensuring that all pupils with medical conditions are able to play a full and active role in all aspects of school life, participate in school visits/trips/sporting activities, remain healthy and achieve their academic potential.
6. Ensuring that relevant training is delivered to a sufficient number of staff who will have responsibility to support children with medical conditions and that they are signed off as competent to do so. Staff to have access to information, resources and materials.
7. Ensuring written records are kept of, any and all, medicines administered to pupils.
8. Ensuring the policy sets out procedures in place for emergency situations

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9. Ensuring the level of insurance in place reflects the level of risk.
10. Handling complaints regarding this policy as outlined in the school's Complaints Policy.



C. The Director and Manager is responsible for:

1. Ensuring the policy is developed effectively with partner agencies and then making staff aware of this policy.
2. The day-to-day implementation and management of Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy and Procedures of World.
3. Liaising with healthcare professionals regarding the training required for staff.
4. Identifying staff that need to be aware of a child's medical condition.
5. Ensuring a sufficient number of trained members of staff are available to implement the policy and deliver IHPs in normal, contingency and emergency situations.
6. If necessary, facilitating the recruitment of staff for the purpose of delivering the promises made in this policy. Ensuring more than one staff member is identified, to cover holidays/absences and emergencies.
7. Ensuring the correct level of insurance is in place for teachers who support pupils in line with this policy.
8. Continuous two way liaison with school nurses and school in the case of any child who has or develops an identified medical condition.
9. Ensuring confidentiality and data protection.
10. Assigning appropriate accommodation for medical treatment/care.
11. Voluntarily holding 'spare' asthma inhalers for emergency use.

D. Staff members are responsible for:

1. Taking appropriate steps to support children with medical conditions and familiarising themselves with procedures which detail how to respond when they become aware that a pupil with a medical condition needs help. A First Aid Certificate is not sufficient.
2. Knowing where controlled drugs are stored and where they are held.
3. Taking account of the needs of pupils with medical conditions in lessons.
4. Undertaking training to achieve the necessary competency for supporting pupils with medical conditions, with particular specialist training if they have agreed to undertake a medication responsibility.
5. Allowing inhalers, adrenalin pens and blood glucose testers to be held in an accessible location, following DfE guidance.

E. School nurses are responsible for:

1. Collaborating on developing an IHP in anticipation of a child with a medical condition starting school.

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2. Notifying the school when a child has been identified as requiring support in school due to a medical condition at any time in their school career.

3. Supporting staff to implement an IHP and then participate in regular reviews of the IHP. Giving advice and liaison on training needs.

4. Liaising locally with lead clinicians on appropriate support. Assisting the Headteacher in identifying training needs and providers of training.



F. Parents and Carers are responsible for:

1. Keeping the school informed about any new medical condition or changes to the child/children's health.

2. Participating in the development and regular reviews of their child's IHP.

3. Completing a parental consent form to administer medicine or treatment before bringing medication into school.

4. Providing the school with the medication their child requires and keeping it up to date including collecting leftover medicine.

5. Carrying out actions assigned to them in the IHP with particular emphasis on, they or a nominated adult, being contactable at all times.

G. Pupils are responsible for:

1. Providing information on how their medical condition affects them.

2. Contributing to their IHP.

3. Compiling with the IHP and self-managing their medication or health needs including carrying medicines or devices, if judged competent to do so by a health care professional and agreed by parents.

Training of Staff

a. Newly appointed staff will be offered training on the 'Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions' Policy as part of their induction.

b. No staff member may administer prescription medicines or undertake any healthcare procedures without undergoing training specific to the condition.

Medical conditions register/list

a. The school admission form does request information on pre-existing medical conditions.

b. The director will maintain a list of medical conditions.

b. Supply staff and support staff should similarly have access on a need to know bases. Parents should be assured data sharing principles are adhered to.

Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs)

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a. Where necessary the host school will develop an Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP) in collaboration with the pupil, parents/carers, Pastoral Mentors and medical professionals.

b. IHP's will be easily accessible to all relevant staff, whilst preserving confidentiality.

c. IHP's will be reviewed at least annually or when a child's medical circumstances change, whichever is sooner.

d. Where a pupil has an Education, Health and Care Plan the IHP will be linked to it or become part of it.

e. Where a child is returning from a period of hospital education or home tuition, collaboration between the LA/AP provider and school is needed to ensure that the IHP identifies the support the child needs to reintegrate.



Transport Arrangements

a. Most pupils attending World arrive by taxi. After initial arrangements have been made at the Admission Meeting arrangement for further supplies:

- Pupils must not transport medication into or out of World
- Taxi Drivers cannot transport medication (parents must not use this system)
- If further supplies are needed and parents/carers are unable to get to World a Split Prescription can be obtained from the Doctor (e.g. the dosage split over two prescriptions, one for parents to get for home and the second to enable named person at World to go to Pharmacy and use the Delivery Scheme this will ensure medication is where it should be and with the relevant person
- Medication will not be accepted unless the packaging is intact, the label is correctly dated and there are no signs of it being tampered with. The name of the pupil and the prescriber must be clear and relevant and it must be handed to the named school person. At the end of each full term, arrangements are made with parents for any surplus medication to be removed from site. If this is not done, the named person must dispose of the items at the local chemist. C.D drugs are logged by the pharmacist and then disposed of.

Education Health Needs (EHN) Referrals

a. All pupils of compulsory school age who because of illness, lasting 15 days or more, would not otherwise receive a suitable full-time education are provided for under the local authority's duty to arrange educational provision for such pupils.

Medicines

a. Where possible, unless advised it would be detrimental to health, medicines should be prescribed in frequencies that allow the pupil to take them outside of school hours.

b. If this is not possible, prior to staff members administering any medication, the parents/carers of the child must complete and sign a parental consent to administration of medicine form.

c. No child will be given any prescription or non-prescription medicines without written parental consent except in exceptional circumstances.

d. Where a pupil is prescribed medication by a healthcare professional without their parents'/carers' knowledge, every effort will be made to encourage the pupil to involve their parents while respecting their right to confidentiality.

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e. No child under 16 years of age will be given medication containing aspirin without a doctor's prescription.

f. Medicines MUST be in date, labelled, and provided in the original container (except in the case of insulin which may come in a pen or pump) with dosage instructions. Medicines which do not meet these criteria will not be administered.

g. A maximum of four weeks' supply of the medication may be provided to the school at one time. However, long term medication e.g. C.D drugs can held on a longer term basis.

h. Controlled drugs may only be taken on school premises by the Parent/Carer of the individual to whom they have been prescribed and passed to the named member of staff. Passing such drugs to others is an offence which will be dealt with under the Drug and Alcohol Policy.

i. Medications are currently stored in Moor House safe and school mini bus for off-site activities.

j. Any medications left over at the end of the course will either be returned to the child's parents or returned back to a local pharmacist, (Boots, Ferryhill) logged out by appointed Woodlands staff and signed for by Pharmacy staff.

k. Written records will be kept of any medication administered to children.

l. Pupils will never be prevented from accessing their medication.

m. World cannot be held responsible for side effects that occur when medication is taken correctly.

n. Staff will not force a pupil, if the pupil refuses to comply with their health procedure, and the resulting actions will be clearly written into the IHP which will include informing parents.

World have decided to voluntary administer medication on a case by case basis for temporary illness with parent consent on the day of illness. This will be discussed with parent/carers and pupil on admission to World.

Emergencies

a. Medical emergencies will be dealt with under the school's emergency procedures which will be communicated to all relevant staff so they are aware of signs and symptoms.

b. Pupils will be informed in general terms of what to do in an emergency such as telling a teacher.

c. If a pupil needs to be taken to hospital, a member of staff will remain with the child until their parents arrive.

Day trips, residential visits and sporting activities

a. The named person is to arrange for medication to be flexible enough to ensure pupils with medical conditions can participate in school trips, residential stays, and sports activities and not prevent them from doing so unless a clinician states it is not possible.

b. To comply with best practice risk assessments should be undertaken, in line with H&S executive guidance on school trips, in order to plan for including pupils with medical conditions. Consultation with parents, healthcare professionals etc. on trips and visits will be separate to the normal day to day IHP requirements for the school day. Offsite Education providers to follow this policy.

Avoiding unacceptable practice

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Each case will be judged individually but in general the following is not considered acceptable

The following behaviour is unacceptable in World:

- a. Preventing children from easily accessing their inhalers and medication and administering their medication when and where necessary.
- b. Assuming that pupils with the same condition require the same treatment.
- c. Ignoring the views of the pupil and/or their parents or ignoring medical evidence or opinion.
- d. Sending pupils home frequently or preventing them from taking part in activities at school.
- e. Penalising pupils with medical conditions for their attendance record where the absences relate to their condition.
- f. Making parents feel obliged or forcing parents to attend school to administer medication or provide medical support, including toilet issues.
- g. Creating barriers to children participating in school life, including school trips.
- h. Refusing to allow pupils to eat, drink or use the toilet when they need to in order to manage their condition.

Definitions

- a. 'Parent(s)' is a wide reference not only to a pupil's birth parents but to adoptive, step and foster parents, or other persons who have parental responsibilities for, or who of a care of a pupil.
- b. 'Medical condition' for these purposes is either a physical or mental health condition as diagnosed by a healthcare professional which results in the child or young person requiring special adjustments for the school day, either ongoing or intermittently. This includes; a chronic or short term condition, a long term health need or disability, an illness, injury or recovery from treatment or surgery. Being 'unwell' and common childhood diseases are not covered.
- c. 'Medication' is defined as any prescribed or over the counter treatment
- d. 'Prescribed medication' is defined as any drug or device prescribed by a doctor, prescribing nurse or dentist and dispensed by a pharmacist with instructions for administration, dose and storage.
- e. A 'staff member' is defined as any member of staff employed or contracted at World.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or in light of any changes in legislation and/or guidance.

This policy document will be reviewed in September 2025.

Signed by:

Martin Coy (General Manager)

MCoy

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