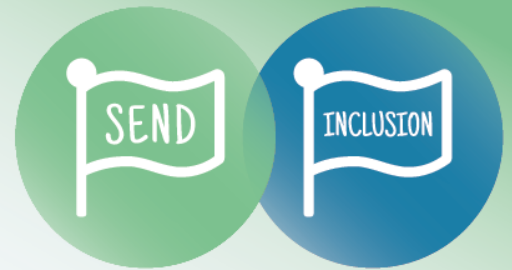


Section ②



Meeting the Needs of Children and Young People with SEND
(The Graduated Approach)

2.10 Supporting CYP with Medical Needs

The Children and Families Act 2014 places a statutory duty on governing bodies of maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units to Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014, to “make arrangements for supporting pupils at the school with medical conditions”. A CYP’s mental and physical health should be properly supported in school, so that they can play a full and active role in school life, remain healthy and achieve their potential.

The Department for Education has issued Statutory Guidance and best practice on ‘Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions’. The governing body of a maintained school, proprietor of an academy and management committee of a pupil referral unit must have regard to the Statutory Guidance in this document. This means that they must follow it unless there is a good reason not to.

Medical needs could be visible, for example, being tube-fed (gastrostomy) or hidden, for example, mental ill health.

Schools will need to work in close partnership with parents/carers to support CYP with medical needs.

CYP with medical needs may be absent from school due to ill health or hospitalisation. Absences could be intermittent or for extended periods. Schools will need to manage this sensitively and in line with DfE guidance on attendance, working closely with parents/carers and school health nurses or other medical professionals where appropriate.

There will need to be clearly allocated responsibilities. Staff will need to be trained in any medical interventions required and this may involve working with specialist staff in support of a child.

Schools will also need to consider their confidentially arrangements balancing the need for staff to be appropriately informed so that individuals can be discretely supported. It is important that care staff have access to information about medical needs in order to support CYP and that all staff are aware of emergency procedures.

What should a school's medical needs policy contain?

Schools are expected to have policies for supporting CYP with medical conditions. These policies should be reviewed regularly and be accessible to parents and school staff. The Local Authority has provided a medical needs policy guidance document which can be found in section 6.19 of this toolkit. The policy should:

- recognise that medical conditions can be life threatening;
- understand the impact it can have on a child's ability to learn; and
- make clear that every CYP with a medical condition is different and should be treated as an individual
- state how the school will consult health and social care professionals, CYP and parents to ensure that the needs of children with medical conditions are properly understood and effectively supported.

The school's complaints procedure must be included in the medical needs policy. Other information that you should expect to see in the policy are:

- the procedures to be followed whenever a school is notified that a CYP has a medical condition
- the procedures for managing and recording use of prescription medicines and/or other interventions such as personal care
- the named member of staff who has overall responsibility for the implementation of the medical policy (this may be the SENCo or another senior member of staff)
- the roles and responsibilities of all those involved in the arrangements
- the role of individual healthcare plans and the person responsible for their development
- how staff will be supported in carrying out their role to support CYP with medical conditions (including how training needs are assessed and how/by whom training will be arranged/provided), and how this will be reviewed
- the arrangements and supervision for CYP who are competent to manage their own health needs and medicines
- processes for developing pupil independence in managing their own care needs
- the contingency plans for emergency situations
- how to facilitate the CYP's participation in school trips and visits, or in sporting activities, so that they aren't prevented from taking part.

The South Glos Way: A SEND and inclusion toolkit for South Gloucestershire education settings and professionals

The South Glos Way toolkit contains several helpful tools to support schools in meeting a pupil's medical, physical and sensory needs. Section 6.18 'Personal Needs Plan' and the accessibility audits and risk assessments will support schools in ensuring they are inclusive and accessible. Schools should monitor implementation of their policy regularly to ensure that arrangements are effective and up to date taking account of any changes in conditions and new pupils.

Further advice and guidance

[Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions](#) (GOV.UK)

[Nasen Children with Medical Needs Mini Guide](#).