



MEDICAL CONDITIONS AND MEDICATION POLICY

INTRODUCTION

Thomas's is an inclusive community that welcomes and supports pupils with medical conditions and endeavours to offer them the same opportunities as others in the school. This applies whether the condition is ongoing, or a short-term illness.

AIMS

- To ensure that all pupils with medical conditions, in terms of both physical and mental health, are properly supported in school so that they can play a full and active role in school life, remain healthy and achieve their academic potential.
- To ensure that parents feel confident that the school provides effective support for their pupil's medical condition and that pupils feel safe
- To establish relationships with relevant local health services where appropriate or helpful
- To effectively manage and support short-term and frequent absences due to medical treatment, so limit the impact on the pupil's education attainment and emotional and general wellbeing
- To comply with the SEND Code of Practice and our SEND Policy in supporting pupils whose medical conditions require them to have an Educational Health and Care (EHC) Plan
- To provide a physical environment that is accessible to pupils with medical conditions, including school visits and off site educational activities.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Principals

- To ensure that arrangements are in place to support pupils with medical conditions and that they are enabled to access the fullest possible participation in all aspects of school life
- To receive annual updates as to the effective working of the policy and implement changes or recommendations arising from the review

Heads and the Lead for pupils with medical conditions

- To be responsible and accountable for fulfilling the schools' statutory duty in meeting the arrangements to support pupils with medical conditions
- To ensure that the policy clearly identifies the roles and responsibilities of all those involved in the arrangements they make to support pupils at school with medical conditions

- To ensure health and social care professionals, pupils and parents are consulted to ensure that the needs of pupils with medical conditions are properly understood and effectively supported
- To ensure that staff are properly trained to provide the support that pupils need
- To ensure that the school's arrangements give parents and pupils confidence in the school's ability to provide effective support for medical conditions in school.
- To ensure the school staff are properly insured and are aware that they are insured to support pupils in this way.
- To ensure that information held by the school is accurate and up to date and good communication and information sharing systems are in place
- To ensure that all staff who need to know are aware of a pupil's condition
- To ensure that all staff, including supply teachers and peripatetic staff are aware of the policy and understand their role in its implementation
- To review this policy regularly, with input from parents, pupils and staff

School Nurse/Lead for pupils with medical conditions

- To ensure all medication is correctly stored and labelled, regularly reviewed, in date and that parents provide new medication as needed
- To contribute to healthcare plans and their review
- To facilitate staff training as appropriate, advising on common conditions or providing information about where the school can access more specialist training
- To ensure pupils know how to take their medication effectively and offer support to help them self-manage their condition at an age appropriate level
- To support pupils and parents as appropriate

First Aiders

- To give immediate help to casualties with common illnesses or injuries and where necessary ensure that an ambulance or other professional medical help is called

Special Educational Needs and Disability Coordinator (SENDCo)

- To keep an overview of any pupils whose medical needs may impact on their learning and advise staff working directly with them to ensure appropriate strategies are put in place to support them
- To ensure that any pupils whose medical condition that requires them to have an EHC is acknowledged and recorded appropriately
- To work with the school to provide equal access to the curriculum, as far as possible, so that pupils with medical conditions have the same opportunities as other pupils, including access to school trips and physical education

Members of Staff

- To be aware of and understand this Medical Conditions Policy
- To be aware of potential triggers, signs and symptoms of common medical conditions and know what to do in an emergency
- To know which pupils in their care have a medical condition and be familiar with the contents of that pupil's healthcare plan
- To know what to do and respond accordingly when they become aware that a pupil with medical conditions needs help.

- To maintain effective communication with parents, including informing them if their pupil has been unwell at school
- To be aware of pupils with medical conditions who may be experiencing bullying or need extra social support
- To ensure that all pupils with medical conditions are not excluded unnecessarily from activities they wish to take part in, and understand the impact a medical condition may have on a pupil and make any reasonable adjustments to accommodate this
- To ensure that medical bags for pupils with medical conditions are taken on all off site activities and returned directly afterwards
- To be aware that medical conditions can affect a pupil's learning and provide extra help when pupils need it, including help to catch up with work when a pupil has been unwell
- To use opportunities such as PSHCE and other areas of the curriculum to raise pupil awareness about medical conditions

Pupils

- To treat pupils with and without a medical condition equally
- To tell their parents, teacher or nearest staff member when they are not feeling well
- To tell a member of staff if another pupil is feeling unwell
- To let any pupil take their medication when they need it and ensure a member of staff is called
- To treat all medication with respect
- To know how to gain access to their medication in an emergency
- To take their own medication when needed – if mature and old enough
- To remember to ask when it is time for any medication. Teachers and other support staff will employ best endeavours to remind the pupil but it is the child's responsibility

Parents

- To tell the school if their child has a medical condition
- To ensure the school has a complete and up-to-date healthcare plan for their child
- To inform the school about any medication their child requires during school hours and complete the relevant form
- To inform the school of any medication their child requires while taking part in visits, outings, field trips or other off site activities
- To inform the school of changes to their child's condition
- To ensure their child's medication and medical devices are labelled with their child's full name
- To provide the school with appropriate spare medication labelled with their child's name
- To ensure that their child's medication is within expiry dates
- To keep their child at home if they are not well enough to attend school or they have had a temperature or been sick within the last 24 hours
- To ensure their child catches up on any school work they have missed
- To ensure their child has regular reviews about their condition with their doctor or specialist healthcare professional
- To ensure their child has a written care/self-management plan from their doctor or specialist health care professional to help their child manage their condition,

PROCEDURES

Each Thomas's School may have its own specific procedures that complement and support the guidance in this document. However this gives the overall recommendations:

Notification

When a pupil starts at Thomas's at the usual transition points and has an identified medical condition the school will ensure that arrangements are in place for the start of the relevant school term. In other such cases, such as new diagnoses or pupils moving mid-term arrangements would be expected to be in place within two weeks of notification or admission.

Individual Healthcare plans may be initiated by a member of school staff or a healthcare professional involved with providing care to the pupil. These should include the following:

- The medical condition, its triggers, signs, symptoms and treatments
- The pupil's resulting needs, including medication (its side-effects and its storage) and other treatments - dose, time, facilities, equipment, testing, dietary requirements and environmental issues, eg crowded corridors, travel time between lessons
- Specific support for the pupil's educational, social and emotional needs; including how absences will be managed, support to catch up with work missed, additional time for exams, counselling etc
- Who will provide this support, their training needs and cover arrangements in their absence
- Who in the school needs to be aware of the pupil's condition and the support required
- Written permission for medication to be administered by a member of staff, or self-administered by individual pupils during school hours
- Separate arrangements or procedures required for school trips or other school activities outside of the normal school timetable that will ensure the pupil can participate, eg risk assessments
- Where confidentiality issues are raised by the parent/pupil, the designated individuals to be entrusted with information about the pupil's condition
- What to do in an emergency, including who to contact and contingency arrangements.

Administration of Medication for short term and long term conditions and injuries

Following Government guidelines the following points should be noted:

- Prescribed medication can only be administered by staff if the parent has filled out and signed a Medication form. This applies to both acute / permanent medication (such as inhalers/adrenaline auto-injectors) (Form A – Appendix 1) and also for a temporary / short course of medication (such as course of antibiotics) (Form B – Appendix 2). Office staff will inform the Tutor.
- Non-prescribed medication should not be administered by staff and medicine can only be given to the pupil for whom it is intended. However, under certain circumstances it may be appropriate to administer certain medicines (e.g. a mild analgesic such as Paracetamol to relieve pain), should this be necessary. In such cases, staff must check the time and amount of any medicine previously administered, and inform the parents of the time and amount of any medicine administered in school, to avoid the danger of giving too much. Parents give permission for this eventuality on the Essential Pupil Information Form (EPIF).

- No over the counter creams or lotions should be administered without consent e.g. Arnica cream, Witchhazel. All cuts and bruises should be cleaned with water. Individually wrapped sterile adhesive dressings are safe to use **provided** that they are **not** used on anyone who may suffer an allergic reaction to certain types of plaster. Before plasters are used, first aiders should establish whether the person requiring treatment has such an allergy. If the person has such an allergy, an alternative dressing. In this case a non-allergic plaster or dressing should be used.
- All adrenaline auto-injectors /inhalers etc. must be kept in a safe, designated place accompanied by an instruction letter from the parents, stating exactly when, how and how much they are to be administered. If an older pupil (Upper School) carries a medicine (such as an inhaler) on his/her person, an additional one must be stored in the School Office.
- All medicines are to be kept in the office in the first aid cupboard/or in a centrally designated place, to be administered by the office staff or a suitably qualified member of staff. However, it is the responsibility of the form teacher to ensure that the pupil "appears" in the office at the correct time for administration of medication. Medicine should be given by a responsible adult, witnessed by another adult, both of whom sign the medication form and record date and time administered.
- The school keeps a spare supply of Salbutamol/Ventolin inhalers which can be given in an emergency to a child who is known to suffer from asthma
- The school keeps a spare supply of adrenaline auto-injectors which can be given in an emergency to a child who is known to suffer from anaphylaxis
- All pupils with medical conditions that may require acute treatment should have medication in a medical bag that should be taken with them whenever they go off site and returned directly afterwards.

Sunscreen

When the weather is hot pupils are encouraged to apply sunscreen before coming to school. They may also keep a tube in their bag to re-apply when needed. Some classes may have a "communal" tube of sunscreen that teachers can put on the pupils if parents have given permission. If this is the case the teachers are advised to put a blob of sunscreen onto the palms of the pupils hands for them to rub in themselves.

Head lice

Head lice are common among children nationally and knowledge is one of the most important steps for both prevention and treatment. Guidance in combatting head lice can be found in Appendix 3 of this policy.

REFERENCES:

This Policy has been informed by:

www.sunsafeschools.co.uk

NHS Guidance on Identification and treatment of Headlice (2018) www.nhs.uk

DfE Guidance 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions' (December 2015)

HM Gov Children and Families Act (2014)

DfE Departmental Advice 'The Equality Act 2010 and Schools' (May 2014)

DfE Guidance 'Drug Advice for Schools' (September 2012)

DfE Guidance on First Aid for Schools (2000)

See also: [First Aid Policy](#), [SEND Policy](#)

This policy will be reviewed annually		
Latest Review: January 2019	By:	Joanna Copland, Vice Principal and School Nurses/Medical Leads
Next Review: January 2020	By:	Joanna Copland, Vice Principal and School Nurses/Medical Leads

Appendices

Appendix 1: Form A for the request for the administration of long term or acute medication in school (red form)

Appendix 2: Form B for the request for the administration of non-acute, short term medicine in school (blue form)

Appendix 3: Guidance in the prevention and treatment of head lice

Appendix 4: Guidance on contagious diseases and length of time to be off school

FORM B **REQUEST FOR ADMINISTRATION OF NON-ACUTE, SHORT TERM MEDICINE IN SCHOOL**
***NOT for Long Term medication eg Adrenaline Auto Injectors & Inhaler (Form A required)**

THIS IS TO BE COMPLETED BY THE PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF ANY CHILD TO WHOM SHORT TERM MEDICATION IS NECESSARY (Eg A week long course of antibiotics)

ONE FORM TO BE USED PER CHILD

- A record of all medicines administered by school staff to a pupil in school must be recorded and only administered with prior written permission and training, if necessary, from the parents/guardians. This includes both acute and non-acute medicines. ('Acute' medicines are used in response to an 'acute' reaction Eg adrenaline auto-injector or Inhaler. 'Non-acute' medicines are given in response to a short term, non-emergency condition/one off, eg a course of antibiotics)
- Always check the pupil's name is on the drug, the dosage, the method of administration and that the medicine is in date. It is the parent's/guardian's responsibility to ensure that their child's medicine is in date.
- **Column 1 to 6:** The Parent/Guardian must complete Columns 1 to 6 of this form. The parent/guardian's signature at Column 6 confirms that the information they have provided in columns 1 to 5 is correct, and that they have trained, if necessary, the named members of staff in Column 5, the person to administer the medication. In the case of an emergency, or if the trained member of staff is absent, another member of staff will administer the medication.
- **Column 7 to 11:** These columns are to be completed by the member of school staff who actually administers the medication, witnessed by a second adult. This person should, wherever possible, be one of the named personnel identified in Column 5, who has received training from the parent/guardian. In the case of an emergency, or if one of the trained personnel is absent/cannot be located, the medication will be administered by another member of staff.

Pupil's full name:						FOR SCHOOL USE ONLY				
Form:						Record of medication administered by member of school staff				
(1) DATE	(2) DRUG PRESCRIBED	(3) TIME TO BE GIVEN	(4) AMOUNT/ METHOD TO BE GIVEN	(5) NAMES OF TRAINED PERSONNEL	(6) PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE	(7) NAME OF DRUG	(8) DOSE	(9) DATE & TIME	(10) SIGNATURE OF ADMINISTRATOR	(11) SIGNATURE OF WITNESS

MEDICAL CONDITIONS AND MEDICATION POLICY – APPENDIX 3



GUIDANCE ON THE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF HEADLICE

Head lice are a persistent problem in many schools. They are difficult to detect and are usually transmitted through head-to-head contact. Anyone can catch head lice – clean hair offers no protection.

Head lice are small insects, about 3mm long. Head lice eggs (nits) are brown or white (empty shells) and attach themselves to the hair. Lice eggs take between 1 – 2 weeks to hatch and then another 1 – 2 weeks to become fully grown, after which they can reproduce. Head lice feed by biting and sucking blood through their host's scalp.

In addition to observing lice in the hair other possible signs include:

- an itchy scalp or an infection (often due to scratching)
- a rash on the back of the neck
- feeling as though something is moving in the hair

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Parents and carers should:

- be aware of head lice and their symptoms
- routinely check their child's head for head lice once a week
- tell their child's school / close friends etc if their child is found to have head lice
- ensuring that a full proper treatment is carried out without delay

The school will:

- enforce the tying back of any hair longer than shoulder length
- regularly remind parents to check their child's head
- inform parents when there is an outbreak of head lice in a class
- give guidance in regards to the treatment and management of head lice

PROCEDURES

- Hair should be checked for nits (the eggs) at every hair wash, using a good conditioner and combing through the scalp in all directions.
- Areas of the head to carefully examine include the nape of the neck and behind the ears. Unlike dandruff, nits do not fall off a strand of hair if it is flicked.
- If nits are found, there are two options:

1. Wet combing

Lice and nits can be removed by wet combing. You should try this method first.

- You can buy a special fine-toothed comb (detection comb) online or from pharmacies to remove head lice and nits. There may be instructions on the pack, but usually you:
 - wash hair with ordinary shampoo
 - apply lots of conditioner (any conditioner will do)
 - comb the whole head of hair, from the roots to the ends
 - It usually takes about 10 minutes to comb short hair, and 20 to 30 minutes for long, frizzy or curly hair.
 - Do wet combing on days 1, 5, 9 and 13 to catch any newly hatched head lice. Check again that everyone's hair is free of lice on day 17.

2. Medicated lotions and sprays

- Ask your pharmacist for advice if you have tried wet combing for 17 days, but your child still has live head lice.
 - They may recommend using medicated lotions and sprays. These kill head lice in all types of hair, and you can buy them from pharmacies, supermarkets or online.
 - Head lice should die within a day. Some lotions and sprays come with a comb to remove dead lice and eggs.
 - Some treatments need to be repeated after a week to kill any newly hatched lice.
 - Check the pack to see if they're OK for you or your child and how to use them.
 - Some lice develop resistance to a particular insecticide. Therefore if lotions or sprays don't work, speak to your pharmacist about other treatments.
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- Following treatment, consistent checking and combing with conditioner should continue every 2 – 4 days and at every hair wash thereafter.
 - If anyone in the family has head lice everyone in the home should have their head checked. There is no need to blanket treat the family.

Some chemical treatments that were previously used are no longer recommended. In addition it is not advised to use medicated lotions and sprays as a preventative measure as they can irritate the scalp.

Mass screening of all pupils in a classroom and / or school does not control the spread of head lice.

Having head lice is not a reason for school absence as treatment can be administered quickly. However should live head lice be noticed by a member of staff, the parent / carer will be contacted to ask them to collect the child immediately to treat the infestation and then return to school the same day.

MEDICAL CONDITIONS AND MEDICATION POLICY – APPENDIX 3



NHS GUIDANCE ON WHEN A CHILD SHOULD BE OFF SCHOOL (From NHS Choices Website)

- Not every illness needs to keep your child from school. If you keep your child away from school, be sure to inform the school on the first day of their absence.
- Use common sense when deciding whether or not your child is too ill to attend school. Ask yourself the following questions.
 - Is your child well enough to do the activities of the school day? If not, keep your child at home.
 - Does your child have a condition that could be passed on to other children or school staff? If so, keep your child at home.
 - Would you take a day off work if you had this condition? If so, keep your child at home.

Common conditions

If your child is ill, it's likely to be due to one of a few minor health conditions. Whether you send your child to school will depend on how severe you think the illness is. This guidance can help you make that judgement.

Remember: if you're concerned about your child's health, consult a health professional.

Cough and cold: A child with a minor cough or cold may attend school. If the cold is accompanied by a raised temperature, shivers or drowsiness, the child should stay off school, visit the GP and return to school 24 hours after they start to feel better. If your child has a more severe and long-lasting cough, consult your GP. They can give guidance on whether the child should stay off school.

Raised temperature: If your child has a raised temperature, they shouldn't attend school. They can return 24 hours after they start to feel better.

Rash: Rashes can be the first sign of many infectious illnesses, such as chickenpox and measles. Children with these conditions shouldn't attend school. If your child has a rash, check with your GP or practice nurse before sending them to school.

Headache: A child with a minor headache doesn't usually need to be kept off school. If the headache is more severe or is accompanied by other symptoms, such as raised temperature or drowsiness, then keep the child off school and consult your GP.

Vomiting and diarrhoea: Children with these conditions should be kept off school. They can return 24 hours after their symptoms disappear. Most cases of vomiting or diarrhoea get better without treatment, but if symptoms persist, consult your GP.

Sore throat: A sore throat alone doesn't have to keep a child from school. If it's accompanied by a raised temperature, the child should stay at home.

Conjunctivitis: Children with conjunctivitis need to be kept off school until antibiotic eye ointment has been applied for 24 hours.

Impetigo: Children with impetigo need to be kept off school until there is no more blistering or crusting, or until 24 hours after antibiotic treatment has been started.

Health Protection Agency (2017) Guidance on Infection Control in Schools and other Child Care Settings.

Infection	Exclusion period
Chicken pox	Five days from onset of rash and all the lesions have crusted over
Hand foot and mouth	None
Measles	Four days from onset of rash and recovered
Meningococcal meningitis/ septicaemia	Until recovered
Meningitis due to other bacteria	Until recovered
Mumps	Five days after onset of swelling
Ringworm	Not usually required.
Rubella (German measles)	Four days from onset of rash
Scabies	Can return after first treatment
Scarlet fever	Exclude until 24hrs of appropriate antibiotic treatment completed
Slapped cheek /Fifth disease/Parvo virus B19	None (once rash has developed)
Threadworms	None
Warts and verrucae	None, verrucae should be covered in swimming pools, gymnasiums and changing rooms
Whooping cough (pertussis)	Two days from starting antibiotic treatment, or 21 days from onset of symptoms if no antibiotics