



## Old Earth Primary School Medical Conditions Policy

At Old Earth Primary School we are an inclusive community that aims to support and welcome pupils with medical conditions.

### **1. We aim to provide all pupils with all medical conditions the same opportunities as others at school.**

a. We will help to ensure they can:

- + be healthy
- + stay safe
- + enjoy and achieve
- + make a positive contribution
- + achieve economic well-being.

b. Pupils with medical conditions are encouraged to take control of their condition.

c. Old Earth aims to include all pupils with medical conditions in all school activities.

d. Parents/carers of pupils with medical conditions are aware of the care their children receive at this school.

e. The school ensures all staff understand their duty of care to children and young people in the event of an emergency.

f. All staff have access to information about what to do in an emergency.

g. Old Earth understands that certain medical conditions are serious and can be potentially life-threatening, particularly if ill managed or misunderstood.

h. All staff have an understanding of the common medical conditions that may affect children at this school. Staff receive regular updates. The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring staff receive regular updates. The School Nursing Service and professionals from the Health Care Trusts can provide the updates if the School requests

i. The medical conditions policy is understood and followed by the whole school and local health community.

### **2. The medical conditions policy is supported by a clear communication plan for governors, staff, parents/carers and other key stakeholders to ensure its full implementation.**

a. Pupils are informed and reminded about the medical conditions policy through PSHE lessons, prior to school trips, at sporting events etc.

b. Parent/carers are informed about the medical conditions policy by including a policy statement on the schools' website and in the school's prospectus, at the start of the school year when communication is sent out about Individual Health Plans and when a new child is enrolled.

c. School staff are informed and regularly reminded about the school's medical conditions policy through the staff handbook and staff meeting, through scheduled medical conditions updates, through the key principles of the policy being displayed in several prominent staff areas at this school. All supply and temporary staff are informed of the policy and their responsibilities including who is the designated person, any medical needs or Individual Health Plans related to the children in their care and how to respond in emergencies. Staff are made aware of Individual Health Plans as they relate to their teaching/supervision groups.

### **3. Relevant staff understand and are updated in what to do in an emergency for the most common serious medical conditions at this school**

a. Relevant staff at Old Earth are aware of the most common serious medical conditions at this school.

b. Staff at Old Earth understand their duty of care to pupils both during, and at either side of the school day in the event of an emergency. In an emergency situation school staff are required under common law duty of care to act like any reasonably prudent parent/carer. This may include administering medication.

c. Staff receive updates regularly for asthma and other medical needs and know how to act in an emergency. Additional training is prioritized for key staff members who work with children who have specific medical conditions supported by an Individual Health Care Plan.

d. The action required for staff to take in an emergency for the common serious conditions at this school is displayed in prominent locations for all staff including classrooms, kitchens in the school staff room, and electronically.

e. Old Earth uses Individual Health Plans to inform the appropriate staff (including supply teachers and support staff) of pupils with complex health needs in their care who may need emergency help. Staff working in these classrooms must sign and read the Health Care Plans at the start of each year or when amendments are made.

f. Old Earth has procedures in place so that a copy of the pupil's Individual Health Care Plan is sent to the emergency care setting with the pupil. On occasions when this is not possible, the form is sent (or the information on it is communicated) to the hospital as soon as possible.

g. If a pupil needs to be taken to hospital, a member of staff will always accompany them and will stay with them until a parent arrives. This school will try to ensure that the staff member will be one the pupil knows. The staff member concerned should inform a member of the schools senior management and/or the schools critical incidents team.

### **4. The school has clear guidance on the administration of medication at school**

#### **Administration – emergency medication**

a. This school will seek to ensure that pupils with medical conditions have easy access to their emergency medication.

b. Old Earth will ensure that all pupils understand the arrangements for a member of staff (and the reserve member of staff) to assist in helping them take their emergency medication safely.

#### **Administration – general**

Parents need to complete a Health Care Plan stating the medication to be taken, dosage and timings. For short term medication – up to 5 days, parents must complete a Medication Form and hand in to the main office.

c. This school understands the importance of medication being taken as prescribed.

d. All use of medication is done under the appropriate supervision of a member of staff in the main office and signed by a witness unless there is an agreed plan for self-medication. Staff should be aware if pupils are using their medication in an abnormal way and should discuss this with the child.

- e. All staff are aware that there is no legal or contractual duty for any member of staff to administer medication or supervise a pupil taking medication unless they have been specifically contracted to do so or unless the situation is an emergency and falls under their regular duty of care arrangements.
- f. Many other members of staff are happy to take on the voluntary role of administering medication. For medication where no specific training is necessary, any member of staff may administer medication to pupils under the age of 16, but only with the written consent of the pupil's parent. (See form 3a)
- g. Old Earth will ensure that specific training and updates will be given to all staff members who agree to administer medication to pupils if necessary.
- h. All school staff in this school have been informed through training that they are required, under common law duty of care, to act like any reasonably prudent parent in an emergency situation. This may include taking action such as assisting in administering medication or calling an ambulance.
- i. In some circumstances, medication is only administered by an adult of the same gender as the pupil, and preferably witnessed by a second adult. This will be agreed in the Individual Health Plan.
- j. Parents/carers at Old Earth understand that if their child's medication changes or is discontinued, or the dose or administration method changes, that they should notify the school immediately. Parents/carers should provide the school with any guidance regarding the administration of medicines and/or treatment from the GP, clinics or hospital.
- k. If a pupil at this school refuses their medication, staff will record this and follow the defined procedures. Parents/carers will be informed of this non-compliance as soon as possible.
- l. All staff attending off-site visits are aware of any pupils on the visit who have medical conditions. They will receive information about the type of condition, what to do in an emergency and any other additional support necessary, including any additional medication or equipment needed.
- m. If a trained member of staff, who is usually responsible for administering medication, is not available this school makes alternative arrangements to provide the service. This is always addressed in the risk assessment for off-site activities.
- n. If a pupil misuses medication, either their own or another pupil's, their parents/carers are informed as soon as possible. The school will seek medical advice by ringing A+E if this situation arises. In such circumstances, pupils will be subject to the school's usual disciplinary procedures.

## **5. This school has clear guidance on the storage of medication at school**

### **Safe storage – emergency medication**

- a. Emergency medication is readily available to pupils who require it at all times during the school day or at off-site activities. If the emergency medication is a controlled drug and needs to be locked up, the keys are readily available and not held personally by members of staff.
- b. If the pupil concerned is involved in extended school services then specific arrangements and risk assessments should be agreed with the parent and appropriate staff involved.

### **Safe storage – non-emergency medication**

- c. All non-emergency medication is kept in a cool dry place. Pupils with medical conditions know where their medication is stored and how to access it.
- d. Staff ensure that medication is accessible only to those for whom it is prescribed.

### **Safe storage – general**

- e. Old Earth has an identified member of staff/designated person who ensures the correct storage of medication at school.
- f. All controlled drugs are kept in a locked cupboard and only named staff have access.
- g. The identified member of staff checks the expiry dates for all medication stored at school each term (i.e. three times a year).
- h. The identified member of staff, along with the parents/carers of pupils with medical conditions, ensures that all emergency and non-emergency medication brought in to school is clearly labelled with the pupil's name, the name of the medication, route of administration, dose and frequency, an expiry date of the medication.
- i. All medication is supplied and stored in its original containers. All medication is labelled with the pupil's name, the name of the medication, expiry date and the prescriber's instructions for administration, including dose and frequency.
- j. Medication is stored in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, paying particular note to temperature.
- k. Some medication for pupils at Old Earth may need to be refrigerated. All refrigerated medication is stored in an airtight container and is clearly labelled. Refrigerators used for the storage of medication are inaccessible to unsupervised pupils or lockable as appropriate.
- l. All medication (including blue inhalers) is sent home with pupils at the end of the school year.
- m. It is the parent/carer's responsibility to ensure new and in date medication comes into school with the appropriate instructions and ensures that the school receives this.

### **Safe disposal**

- n. Parents/carers at this school are asked to collect out-of-date medication.
- o. If parents/carers do not pick up out-of-date medication, or at the end of the school year, medication is taken to a local pharmacy for safe disposal.
- p. A named member of staff is responsible for checking the dates of medication and arranging for the disposal of any that have expired. This check is done 3 times a year and is always documented.
- q. Sharps boxes are used for the disposal of needles. Parents/carers obtain sharps boxes from the child's GP or paediatrician on prescription. All sharps boxes in this school are stored in a locked cupboard unless alternative safe and secure arrangements are put in place on a case-by-case basis.
- r. If a sharps box is needed on an off-site or residential visit, a named member of staff is responsible for its safe storage and return to a local pharmacy, to school or to the pupil's parent.
- s. Collection and disposal of sharps boxes is arranged with the local authority's environmental services.

## **6. This school has clear guidance about record keeping for pupils with medical conditions**

### **Enrolment forms**

- 1. Parents/carers at this school are asked if their child has any medical conditions.

b. If a pupil has a short-term medical condition that requires medication during school hours (e.g. antibiotics to cover a chest infection) parents must complete a medication form and hand to the school office.

#### Individual Health Plans

c. Old Earth uses an Individual Health Care Plan for children with complex health needs to record important details about the individual children's medical needs at school, their triggers, signs, symptoms, medication and other treatments. Further documentation can be attached to the Individual Health Plan if required. (see Form 1)

Examples of complex health needs which may generate an Individual Health Plan following discussion with the school nurse and the school:

The child has

- diabetes
- gastrostomy feeds
- a tracheostomy
- anaphylaxis
- a central line or other long term venous access
- Severe asthma that has required a hospital admission within the last 12 months
- epilepsy with rescue medication

d. An Individual Health Plan, accompanied by an explanation of why and how it is used, is shared with parents/carers of pupils with a complex health need.

e. It is the parent's responsibility to fill in and update the Individual Health Plan and return the completed form to the class teacher. The school will contact the parent/carer if health information has not been returned. If an Individual Health Plan has not been completed, the school will contact the parents and may convene a TAC meeting or consider safeguarding children procedures if necessary.

#### School Individual Health Plan register

Individual Health Plans are used to create a centralised register of pupils with complex health needs. An identified member of school staff has responsibility for the register at this school. Schools should ensure that there is a clear and accessible system for identifying pupils with health plans/medical needs such as names being 'flagged' on the SIMs system. A robust procedure should be in place to ensure that the child's record, contact details and any changes to the administration of medicines, condition, treatment or incidents of ill health in the school are updated on the school's record system.

The responsible member of school staff follows up with the parents/carers and health professional if further detail on a pupil's Individual Health Plan is required or if permission or administration of medication is unclear or incomplete.

#### Ongoing communication and review of Individual Health Care Plans

Parents/carers at this school are regularly reminded to update their child's Individual Health Plan if their child has a medical emergency or if there have been changes to their symptoms (getting better or worse), or their medication and treatments change. Each Individual Health Plan will have a review date.

Parents/carers should direct any additional information, letters or health guidance to their child's class teacher in order that the necessary records are altered quickly and the necessary information disseminated.

#### Storage and access to Individual Health Care Plans

Individual Health Plans are kept in the Class SEND folders.

When a member of staff is new to a pupil group, for example due to staff absence, the school makes sure that they are made aware of the Individual Health Plans and needs of the pupils in their care.

Old Earth ensures that all staff protect pupils confidentiality.

This school informs parents/carers that the Individual Health Care Plan would be sent ahead to emergency care staff, should an emergency happen during school hours or at a school activity outside the normal school day. This is included on the Individual Health Plan.

The information in the Individual Health Plan will remain confidential unless needed in an emergency

#### 7. Residential visits

Parents/carers are sent a residential visit form to be completed and returned to school before their child leaves for an overnight or extended day visit. This form requests up-to-date information about the pupil's current condition and their overall health. This provides essential and up-to-date information to relevant staff and school supervisors to help the pupil manage their condition while they are away. This includes information about medication not normally taken during school hours.

All residential visit forms are taken by the relevant staff member on visits where medication is required. These are accompanied by a copy of the pupil's individual health plan.

All parents/carers of pupils with a medical condition attending a school trip or overnight visit are asked for consent, giving staff permission to supervise administration of medication at night or in the morning if required.

The residential visit form also details what medication and what dosage the pupil is currently taking at different times of the day. It helps to provide up-to-date information to relevant staff and supervisors to help the pupil manage their condition while they are away. A copy of the Individual Health Plan and equipment/medication must be taken on off-site activities.

#### 8. Record of Awareness Raising Updates and Training

Old Earth holds updates on common medical conditions once a year. A record of the content and attendance of the medical condition training is kept by the school and reviewed every 12 months to ensure all new staff receives updates. The School Nursing Service will provide updates if the school request this.

All school staff who volunteer or who are contracted to administer emergency medication are provided with training, if needed, by a specialist nurse, doctor or school nurse. The school keeps a register of staff that has had the relevant training; it is the school's responsibility to arrange this.

School should risk assess the number of first aiders it needs and ensure the first aiders are suitably trained to carry out their responsibilities. This school ensures that the whole school environment is inclusive and favourable to pupils with medical conditions. This includes the physical environment, as well as social, sporting and educational activities

## **9. Physical environment**

Old Earth is committed to providing a physical environment that is as accessible as possible to pupils with medical conditions.

Schools should be encouraged to meet the needs of pupils with medical conditions to ensure that the physical environment at this school is as accessible as possible.

Old Earth's commitment to an accessible physical environment includes out-of-school visits. The school recognises that this may sometimes mean changing activities or locations.

## **10. Social interactions**

Old Earth ensures the needs of pupils with medical conditions are adequately considered to ensure their involvement in structured and unstructured social activities, including during breaks and before and after school.

Old Earth ensures the needs of pupils with medical conditions are adequately considered to ensure they have access to extended school activities such as school discos, breakfast club, school productions, after school clubs and residential visits.

All staff at Old Earth are aware of the potential social problems that pupils with medical conditions may experience. Staff use this knowledge to try to prevent and deal with problems in accordance with the school's anti-bullying and behaviour policies.

Staff use opportunities such as personal, social and health education (PSHE) lessons to raise awareness of medical conditions amongst pupils and to help create a positive social environment.

## **11. Exercise and physical activity**

Old Earth understands the importance of all pupils taking part in sports, games and activities.

This school seeks to ensure all classroom teachers, PE teachers and sports coaches make appropriate adjustments to sports, games and other activities to make physical activity accessible to all pupils.

This school seeks to ensure that all classroom teachers, PE teachers and sports coaches understand that if a pupil reports they are feeling unwell, the teacher should seek guidance before considering whether they should take part in an activity.

Teachers and sports coaches are aware of pupils in their care who have been advised, by a healthcare professional, to avoid or to take special precautions with particular activities.

This school ensures all PE teachers, classroom teachers and school sports coaches are aware of the potential triggers for pupils' medical conditions when exercising and how to minimise these triggers.

This school seeks to ensure that all pupils have the appropriate medication or food with them during physical activity and that pupils take them when needed.

Old Earth ensures all pupils with medical conditions are actively encouraged to take part in out-of-school clubs and team sports.

## **12. Education and learning**

This school ensures that pupils with medical conditions can participate fully in all aspects of the curriculum and ensures that appropriate adjustments and extra support are provided.

Teachers at this school are aware of the potential for pupils with medical conditions to have special educational needs (SEN). Pupils with medical conditions who are finding it difficult to keep up with their studies are referred to the SEN coordinator.

This school ensures that lessons about common medical conditions are incorporated into PSHE lessons and other parts of the curriculum. Pupils at this school learn how to respond to common medical conditions.

## **13. Risk Assessments**

Risk assessments are carried out by this school prior to any out-of-school visit or off site provision and medical conditions are considered during this process. This school considers: how all pupils will be able to access the activities proposed; how routine and emergency medication will be stored and administered, where help can be obtained in an emergency, and any other relevant matters.

Old Earth understands that there may be additional medication, equipment or other factors to consider when planning residential visits or off site activities. This school considers additional medication and facilities that are normally available at school.

This school carries out risk assessments before pupils start any work experience or off-site educational placement. It is this school's responsibility to ensure that the placement is suitable, including travel to and from the venue for the pupil. Permission is sought from the pupil and their parents/carers before any medical information is shared with an employer or other education provider.

This school is aware of the triggers that can make medical conditions worse or can bring on an emergency. The school is actively working towards reducing these health and safety risks.

Old Earth is committed to working towards reducing the likelihood of medical emergencies by identifying and reducing triggers both at school and on out-of-school visits.

School staff have been updated on medical conditions. This update includes information on how to avoid and reduce exposure to triggers for common medical conditions.

Each member of the school and health community knows their roles and responsibilities in maintaining an effective medical conditions policy. Old Earth works in partnership with all interested and relevant parties including the school's governing body, school staff, and community healthcare professionals and any relevant emergency practitioners to ensure the policy is planned, implemented and maintained successfully.

## **14. Roles and responsibilities**

Governors have a responsibility to:

- + ensure the health and safety of their staff and anyone else on the premises or taking part in school activities (this includes all pupils). This responsibility extends to those staff and others leading activities taking place off-site, such as visits, outings or field trips
- + ensure the school's health and safety policies and risk assessments are inclusive of the needs of pupils with medical conditions and reviewed annually.
- + make sure the medical conditions policy is effectively implemented, monitored and evaluated and regularly updated
- + ensure that the school has robust systems for dealing with medical emergencies and critical incidents (see Stockport's Critical Incidents Guidelines), at any time when pupils are on site or on out of school activities.

**Parents/carers have a responsibility to:**

- + tell the school if their child has a medical condition or complex health need

- + ensure the school has a complete and up-to-date Individual Health Plan if their child has a complex health need
- + inform the school about the medication their child requires during school hours
- + inform the school/provider of any medication their child requires while taking part in visits, outings or field trips and other out-of-school activities
- + tell the school about any changes to their child's medication, what they take, when, and how much
- + inform the school of any changes to their child's condition
- + ensure their child's medication and medical devices are labelled with their child's full name
- + ensure the school has full emergency contact details for them
- + provide the school with appropriate spare medication labelled with their child's name
- + ensure that their child's medication is within expiry dates
- + keep their child at home if they are not well enough to attend school
- + ensure their child catches up on any school work they have missed.
- + ensure their child has regular reviews about their condition with their doctor or specialist healthcare professional
- + if the child has complex health needs, ensure their child has a written Individual Health Plan for school and if necessary an asthma management plan from their doctor or specialist healthcare professional to help their child manage their condition.
- + have completed/signed all relevant documentation including form 3a and the Individual Health Plan if appropriate

#### **15. The medical conditions policy is regularly reviewed evaluated and updated.**

Old Earth's medical condition policy is reviewed, evaluated and updated in line with the school's policy review timeline. The views of pupils with various medical conditions are actively sought and considered central to the evaluation process.

#### **16. Additional guidance**

Other guidance resources that link to a medical conditions policy include:

- + Healthy Schools Programme – a medical conditions policy can provide evidence to help schools achieve their healthy school accreditation
- + Every Child Matters: Change for Children (2004). The 2006 Education Act ensures that all schools adhere to the five aims of the Every Child Matters agenda
- + National Service Framework for Children and Young People and Maternity Services (2004) – provides standards for healthcare professionals working with children and young people including school health teams
- + Health and Safety of Pupils on Educational Visits: A Good Practice Guide (2001) – provides guidance to schools when planning educational and residential visits
- + Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 – legislation on the storage and administration of controlled medication and drugs
- + Home to School Travel for Pupils Requiring Special Arrangements (2004) – provides guidance on the safety for pupils when travelling on local authority provided transport
- + Including Me: Managing Complex Health Needs in School and Early Years Settings (2005).
- + The Children and Families Act 2014
- + [www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-pupils-at-school-with-medical-conditions](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-pupils-at-school-with-medical-conditions).

#### **September 2022**

Further advice and resources

The Anaphylaxis Campaign  
 PO Box 275  
 Farnborough  
 Hampshire GU14 6SX  
 Phone 01252 546100  
[info@anaphylaxis.org.uk](mailto:info@anaphylaxis.org.uk)  
[www.anaphylaxis.org.uk](http://www.anaphylaxis.org.uk)

Asthma UK  
 Summit House  
 70 Wilson Street  
 London EC2A 2DB  
 Phone 020 7786 4900  
[info@asthma.org.uk](mailto:info@asthma.org.uk)  
[www.asthma.org.uk](http://www.asthma.org.uk)

Diabetes UK  
 Macleod House  
 10 Parkway  
 London NW1 7AA  
 Phone 020 7424 1000  
[info@diabetes.org.uk](mailto:info@diabetes.org.uk)  
[www.diabetes.org.uk](http://www.diabetes.org.uk)

Cystic Fibrosis Trust11  
 London Road  
 Bromley  
 Kent

BR1 1BY  
Phone 0300 373 1000  
[www.cysticfibrosis.org.uk](http://www.cysticfibrosis.org.uk)  
[enquiries@cysticfibrosis.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@cysticfibrosis.org.uk)

Epilepsy Action  
New Anstey House  
Gate Way Drive  
Yeadon  
Leeds LS19 7XY  
Phone 0113 210 8800  
[epilepsy@epilepsy.org.uk](mailto:epilepsy@epilepsy.org.uk)  
[www.epilepsy.org.uk](http://www.epilepsy.org.uk)

Long-Term Conditions Alliance  
202 Hatton Square  
16 BaldwinsGardens  
London EC1N 7RJ  
Phone 020 7813 3637  
[info@ltca.org.uk](mailto:info@ltca.org.uk)  
[www.ltca.org.uk](http://www.ltca.org.uk)

Department for Children, Schools and Families  
Sanctuary Buildings  
Great Smith Street  
London SW1P 3BT  
Phone 0870 000 2288  
[info@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:info@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk)  
[www.dcsf.gov.uk](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk)

Council for Disabled Children  
National Children's Bureau  
8 Wakley Street  
London EC1V 7QE  
Phone 020 7843 1900  
[cdc@ncb.org.uk](mailto:cdc@ncb.org.uk)  
[www.ncb.org.uk/cdc](http://www.ncb.org.uk/cdc)

National Children's Bureau  
National Children's Bureau  
8 Wakley Street  
London EC1V 7QE  
Phone 020 7843 6000  
[www.ncb.org.uk](http://www.ncb.org.uk)