SUPPORTING PUPILS WITH MEDICAL CONDITIONS POLICY

INTRODUCTION

Langley Hall Arts Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all pupils. The Academy recognises that children and young people with medical conditions should be properly supported so that they can participate fully in school life, remain healthy, achieve their academic potential and enjoy the same opportunities as their peers.

The Academy recognises that pupils may experience a wide range of medical needs, whether short-term, long-term, chronic, fluctuating, physical or mental health related. Medical conditions can affect attendance, educational progress, emotional wellbeing, participation in activities and wider development. The school is committed to ensuring that pupils with medical conditions are not disadvantaged, excluded or unnecessarily prevented from accessing any aspect of school life because of their condition.

The Academy seeks to create an environment in which pupils feel safe, supported and understood, and where staff are confident in their responsibilities and able to respond appropriately to identified medical needs.

This policy should be read alongside the Allergy and Intolerance Policy, First Aid Policy, Health and Safety Policy, Child Protection and Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedure, SEND Policy, Attendance Policy and relevant educational visits procedures.

STATUTORY FRAMEWORK

This policy has been developed having regard to:

- The Children and Families Act 2014.
- The Equality Act 2010.
- Department for Education statutory guidance on supporting children and young people with medical conditions and allergies.
- Relevant health and safety legislation.
- The Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework.
- Relevant safeguarding guidance, including Keeping Children Safe in Education.

The Academy recognises that supporting pupils with medical conditions forms part of its wider safeguarding, inclusion, attendance, equality and welfare responsibilities.

POLICY AIMS

The Academy aims to ensure that pupils with medical conditions are properly supported so that they are able to access education safely and successfully.

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The school will work collaboratively with parents, carers, healthcare professionals and external agencies where appropriate in order to understand individual needs and provide effective support. The Academy will seek to promote independence wherever appropriate while ensuring that pupils receive the level of support necessary for their safety, wellbeing and educational success.

The school will also seek to minimise disruption to learning and ensure that medical conditions do not create unnecessary barriers to participation, attendance or achievement.

SUPPORTING PUPILS WITH MEDICAL CONDITIONS

The Academy recognises that medical conditions affect individuals differently. Some pupils may require daily support and monitoring, while others may require assistance only in particular circumstances or during health-related episodes.

Where a pupil has a medical condition that requires support in school, the Academy will work with parents, carers and relevant health professionals to understand the nature of the condition, any risks presented, medication requirements, warning signs, emergency procedures and educational implications.

The Academy will take reasonable steps to ensure that arrangements are put in place as quickly as possible and that staff have access to the information required to support the pupil safely.

INDIVIDUAL HEALTHCARE PLANS

Where required, an Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP) will be developed for a pupil with a medical condition.

The purpose of an Individual Healthcare Plan is to ensure that everyone involved understands the support required and their respective responsibilities. Plans will normally be developed in partnership with parents, carers, the pupil where appropriate and relevant healthcare professionals.

Individual Healthcare Plans may include information regarding:

- the medical condition;
- signs, symptoms and triggers;
- medication requirements;
- arrangements for storing and administering medication;
- emergency procedures;
- educational implications;
- attendance implications;
- participation in sport, educational visits and extracurricular activities;
- arrangements for review.

Plans will be reviewed regularly and updated whenever circumstances change.

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ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION

The Academy recognises that some pupils may require medication during the school day. Medication will only be administered in accordance with school procedures and with appropriate parental consent where required.

Prescription medication will normally only be administered if it has been prescribed by an authorised healthcare professional and provided in its original container with clear instructions. Records will be maintained whenever medication is administered.

Pupils who have been assessed as competent by parents and healthcare professionals may, where appropriate, carry and manage their own medication subject to agreement with the Academy and any relevant risk assessment.

ATTENDANCE AND EDUCATIONAL ACCESS

The Academy recognises the close relationship between medical conditions and attendance. Medical needs may affect a pupil's ability to attend school consistently and, in some circumstances, may require additional support, reasonable adjustments or temporary arrangements.

The Academy will work with families, healthcare professionals and external agencies to promote good attendance wherever possible while recognising the realities of individual medical circumstances.

Where attendance concerns arise in connection with a medical condition, the school will consider whether additional support, Early Help, safeguarding intervention or multi-agency involvement may be appropriate.

The Academy will seek to maintain continuity of learning during periods of absence and will support reintegration wherever necessary.

MENTAL HEALTH AND MEDICAL CONDITIONS

The Academy recognises that physical health and mental health are closely connected. Some medical conditions may have an impact on emotional wellbeing, whilst mental health needs may themselves require ongoing support and intervention.

Where concerns arise regarding a pupil's mental health, emotional wellbeing, self-harm, suicidal thoughts or other indicators of risk, the matter will be managed in accordance with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedure.

The Academy recognises that medical concerns can, in some circumstances, become safeguarding concerns and must therefore be considered within the wider safeguarding framework.

EDUCATIONAL VISITS, SPORT AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The Academy believes that pupils with medical conditions should be able to participate fully in educational visits, sporting activities, performances and extracurricular opportunities wherever this is reasonably possible and safe.

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Risk assessments will take account of individual medical needs and appropriate reasonable adjustments will be implemented where necessary. Staff responsible for activities will be provided with relevant information and emergency procedures where appropriate.

The Academy will not exclude pupils from activities solely because of a medical condition unless there is a clear and evidence-based safety reason for doing so.

STAFF TRAINING

The Academy recognises that effective support depends upon staff confidence, knowledge and understanding.

Appropriate staff will receive training relevant to the needs of pupils within the school. Training may include the management of specific medical conditions, medication administration, emergency procedures, use of medical devices, seizure management, diabetes awareness, asthma management, allergy awareness and other areas as required.

Training records will be maintained by the school.

SAFEGUARDING

The Academy recognises that pupils with medical conditions may be more vulnerable to bullying, social isolation, reduced attendance, emotional distress or other safeguarding concerns.

Staff should remain alert to indicators that a pupil's health, welfare or wellbeing is deteriorating and should report concerns promptly through safeguarding procedures.

Information relating to medical conditions will be shared appropriately on a need-to-know basis in order to safeguard pupils and ensure that support arrangements operate effectively.

RECORD KEEPING

The Academy will maintain appropriate records relating to medical conditions, Individual Healthcare Plans, medication administration, training and significant medical incidents. Records will be maintained securely and in accordance with the school's data protection and records management procedures.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

The Principal is responsible for overseeing the implementation of this policy.

The effectiveness of arrangements for supporting pupils with medical conditions will be reviewed regularly through monitoring, healthcare plan reviews, safeguarding reviews, attendance information, incident records and feedback from pupils, families and staff.

This policy will be reviewed annually, or sooner where changes in legislation, statutory guidance or school practice make this necessary.

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Related Policies

- Allergy and Intolerance Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedure
- SEND Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Educational Visits Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct Policy

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