

Supporting Students with Medical Needs Policy

The Governing Body of The Marsh Academy supports the shared vision that all children and young people have the right to be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve and be able to make a positive contribution in life.

It is the academy's policy to follow the guidance given by the Department for Children and Schools and Families in supporting students with medical needs, unless it is superseded by advice from the Health Authority or Local Education Authority.

Children with medical needs have the same rights of admission to the academy as other children.

Disabled students will not be discriminated against in relation to their access to education. The academy is under a duty to plan strategically to increase physical access over time and to provide effective learning opportunities for all students.

Parents/carers have the responsibility of providing the school with sufficient information about their child's medical condition, treatment and/or special care needed at school and will be asked to provide details prior to the student's joining the academy. It is the responsibility of the parent/carer to inform the Student Office in writing of any new condition requiring medical treatment at the earliest possible opportunity. All staff will be made aware, by a confidential process, of students with a medical condition requiring support.

It is recognised that students should also take responsibility for their own health needs.

Whilst the policy is to assist by supervising the taking of medicines, wherever practicable, there is no statutory responsibility which requires academy staff to administer medication. The academy has a policy on the 'Administration of Medication' in conjunction with which this policy should be read.

Acutely unwell children should be kept at home. Prescription medicines should only be brought into the academy when absolutely necessary.

The academy shall ensure that there are members of staff, appropriately trained to manage medicines as part of their duties.

It is the policy that, where an individual Health Care Plan is necessary for an individual student, one shall be prepared based on information provided by the parent/carer and communicated to staff via the confidential process. Where appropriate, the Health Service (usually the School Nursing Service) will assist the Head of School in assessing whether any procedures which may be required in relation to a particular student are of a type which can be undertaken by academy staff. If it is appropriate and the procedures are agreed, further staff training will be provided to assist with the required support.

The Governing Body supports the expectation that academy staff would act in 'loco parentis' if a student showed symptoms of a serious condition, either directly or by calling assistance, rather than do nothing. In extreme cases, this could necessitate emergency action based upon what a reasonable parent/carer would do in the circumstances.

The Governing Body supports its staff by providing extensive insurance cover to indemnify them personally when taking responsible action to support a student with medical needs.

The appropriate number of staff will be trained in first aid and will attend refresher courses on a regular basis.

Parental consent with regard to the administration of anaesthetics and the provision of medical information to medical staff shall be obtained prior to a student taking part in an off-site activity or Work Experience.

This academy policy forms part of the academy's Health and Safety Policy.

Further guidance on this policy can be obtained by contacting the academy's Health & Safety Officer, Mr Norman.