

ABBERLEY PAROCHIAL V.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

Access to Education for Pupils with Medical Needs in School

This document is written in response to the guidance in the document “Access to Education for Children and Young People with Medical Needs”, DfES 0732/2001.

Most pupils will at some time have a medical condition that may affect their participation in school activities. For many this will be short-term; perhaps finishing a course of medication. Other pupils have medical conditions that, if not properly managed, could limit their access to education. Such pupils are regarded as having medical needs. Most children with medical needs are able to attend school regularly and, with some support from the school, can take part in most normal school activities. However, school staff may need to take extra care in supervising some activities to make sure that these pupils, and others, are not put at risk.

Abberley Primary School believes that a positive response by the school to a pupil’s medical needs will not only benefit the pupils directly, but can also positively influence the attitude of the whole class. All pupils should continue to have access to as much education as their medical condition allows so that they are able to maintain the momentum of their education and to keep up with their studies. The school will continue to be responsible for all pupils unable to attend school for medical reasons. Pupils should be able to access education without stigma or exclusion.

The Head Teacher is the named person responsible for dealing with pupils who are unable to attend school because of medical needs and will facilitate communication with all parties and ensure that the school is meeting the needs of all pupils in the school with a medical condition.

He/she will ensure that

- The school maintains a list of pupils with medical conditions in the school
- The LEA/EWO is informed if a pupil is, or is likely to be, away from school due to medical needs for more than 15 working days
- The appropriate education provider (when necessary) is supplied with information about a pupil’s capabilities, educational progress and programme of work
- Arrangements are made to ensure adequate monitoring of progress
- Pupils who are unable to attend school because of medical needs are kept informed about school social events, are able to participate, for example, in homework clubs and other activities.
- Contact with peers is encouraged, e.g. through visits

- A re-integration plan is in place for all pupils before they return to school. The plan should have multi-agency approval.

Parents hold key information and knowledge and have a crucial role to play. They should provide school with information about their child's medical condition. Parents, and the pupil, if mature enough, should give details in conjunction with their GP or paediatrician, as appropriate. The school doctor or nurse may also be able to provide additional background information for school staff.

Parents should be informed about their children's educational programme and performance. Children also have a right to be involved in making decisions and exercising choice.

An individual health care plan may be drawn up if it is necessary to identify safety measures to support pupils with medical needs and ensure that others are not put at risk. It will clarify the help that the school can supply and receive. This will be prepared with the written agreement of the parents, who will also contribute to the plan. The school will treat medical information confidentially and will agree with the parent who else should have access to the records. The school will agree with parents how often they should jointly review the plan

School Staff will need to know about a pupil's medical needs e.g. they may need to deal with an emergency. Supply teachers will also need to be made aware of medical needs.

Medication. The school's medication policy must be applied uniformly.