

## Health Condition in School Alliance

### Safe in School FAQs

#### **Who are the Health Conditions in School Alliance?**

The Health Conditions in School Alliance is made of over 30 organisations, including charities, healthcare professionals and trade unions who work collaboratively to make sure children with health conditions get the care they need in school.

Diabetes UK currently acts as Chair for the Alliance

#### **The Children and Families Act 2014 section 100.**

The Children and Families Act 2014 includes a duty on schools to support children with medical conditions. This is inclusive of children with diabetes. Schools must make arrangements for supporting pupils at schools with medical conditions and in meeting that duty they must have regard to the statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State.

The statutory guidance: [Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions](#)

Schools that must meet the duty in the Children and Families Act are:

- a maintained school
- an Academy school
- an alternative provision Academy
- a pupil referral unit

#### **What is a medical conditions policy and why is it needed?**

A medical conditions policy states how the school will care for any children with medical conditions: the procedures for getting the right care, training of staff who will support the children, and who is responsible for making sure the policy is carried out.

The policy should recognise health conditions can be life threatening and that they can also affect how a child learns. Schools must regularly review and audit their policy to make sure the arrangements for children with medical conditions are working. This policy statement should be developed with pupils, parents, school nurse, school staff, governors, the school employer and relevant local health services.

#### **What is the Safe in School Campaign?**

A number of Alliance member organisations raised concerns from parents that schools were not aware of what the law requires them to do and that their child was not receiving the necessary support from their school. This prompted the HCSA to call on the Government to act.

#### **What are the campaign asks?**

1. **Awareness:** The Department for Education and the Minister of State for Schools must raise awareness and understanding of s.100 of the Children and Families Act, with all maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units.
2. **Implementation:** The Minister of State for Schools should incorporate into Ofsted inspections a check of a school's implementation of s.100 of the Children and Families Act.

## How is the Alliance/Diabetes UK working to achieve the campaign asks?

1. Working collaboratively with Department for Education to ensure all schools are made aware of the duty in schools
2. Providing information on websites on what a medical conditions policy is and should look like
3. Investigating medical conditions policies are compliant with the legislation- FOI investigation of schools across England and all Local Authorities.
4. To work with the school inspection authority, Ofsted, to assist in making sure that schools are adhering to the duty.

## What procedures should your school have in place to support children with medical conditions?

### **Medical conditions policy**

This policy is a comprehensive framework signed off by the school head and the board of Governors which sets out how the school will ensure safety, day to day management and inclusion of children with medical conditions at their school.

### **Individual healthcare plan**

All children with a long term medical condition must have an Individual Health Care Plan in place which is plan that covers the day to day management and treatment of the child. It should be prepared and agreed by the parent, school, healthcare professional and the child where appropriate.

### **Working together**

A key component of successful management of children with medical conditions is a clear plan and process for all relevant stakeholders such as the school, local authority, the child's family, the child's healthcare provider to effectively communicate and work together in the interest of the child.

### **Training and support**

All staff must be informed about the schools medical conditions policy and the conditions that affect children at their school. Nominated staff who responsible for the day to day care of a child with medical condition must also be appropriately trained and that training needs to be refreshed at least every two years.

## What to do if your child's school does not have a medical conditions policy?

It is a legal requirement for all maintained schools to have a medical conditions policy. It is essential that you request that the school head teacher raise the need for a medical conditions policy with the school governors.

The local authority should have a template policy or guidance on what a medical conditions policy should look like.

The Health Conditions in School Alliance also has template documents.

<http://medicalconditionsatschool.org.uk/>

## What to do if your child's school's medical condition policy is not being followed to allow your child to attend school like their peers?

The Health Condition in School Alliance member organisations will be able to provide you and your family with advice on how to ensure that a child is receiving the right support in school. If you are in need to help please see if your child's medical condition is represented by any of the Alliance members.

A list of member organisations logos can be found at the bottom on the Alliance webpage, which when clicked will take you to their respective website. They will be able to provide tailored advice and support you in making sure your child receives the right support in school.

If your child's medical condition is not represented we would advise you to use the resources on our website and get in touch with your school, your child's healthcare professional and your

If your child has diabetes and their school is not supporting them, please get in touch with [Diabetes UK's Care in School Helpline](#)

### **Shouldn't parents make sure that everyone at their school knows about their child's condition?**

Parents have a responsibility to inform the school about their child's condition, to provide necessary equipment and supplies and to contribute to the child's individual health care plan. However, it is not the parents' duty to ensure all staff in the school are informed and educated and this may be impracticable. It is the school's duty to ensure correct procedures are in place for managing medical conditions and making sure that these procedures are readily accessible to all staff.

### **Shouldn't children be encouraged to be more independent?**

The school's medical condition policy must take into account that every child with a medical conditions such as Type 1 diabetes is different. While it is hoped that where possible children can achieve some level of autonomy, this does not mean that they should be left to their own devices in school. It is important for the school's medical conditions policy to outline what measures are taken to ensure the safety and inclusion of each child with a medical condition and include a provision for an individual health care plan. Every child's day to day need must be recorded in their individual health care plan. How the child is managed will vary from child to child.

### **Why does the duty only apply to schools England? What about Scotland and Wales?**

The Children and families Act 2014 applies in England only.

Northern Ireland has The Support Pupils with medical needs 2008 joint guidance, published by the Department of Education (DE) and the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) in 2008, sets out the key roles and responsibilities pertaining to the medication needs of school pupils in Northern Ireland.

**Scotland** has various pieces of legislation that relate in some way to the rights of children with diabetes at school. The Scottish Government has recently published a consultation document about guidance for schools on managing medical conditions. You can find it at <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/01/8545>

**Welsh Government** originally published a guidance document, 'Access to Education and Support for Children & Young People with Medical Needs' in 2010. After a lengthy consultation period, a revised version is due for release by the end of 2016. Documents relating to the consultation, including the initial draft, can be found here:

<http://gov.wales/betaconsultations/education/supporting-learners-with-healthcare-needs/?lang=en>

Whilst we welcome the updating of the guidance document, it is not part of a legislative framework.

Our team in Wales is working with more than 15 other organisations (including the Royal College of Paediatric & Child Health and the Children & Young People's Wales Diabetes Network), the NHS and parents to influence legislative change in Wales.

You can read our latest report 'Type 1 diabetes in schools in Wales: An Excellent Chance' [here](#) (761 KB).

For more information go to <https://www.diabetes.org.uk/Guide-to-diabetes/Your-child-and-diabetes/Schools/Diabetes-in-schools-legal-information/>

### **Why doesn't the duty apply to independent schools?**

Independent schools are classified as 'alternative provision' and therefore the Children and families Act does not apply to them. However, it is stated that "the guidance is provided to anyone who has an interest in promoting the wellbeing and academic attainment of children with medical conditions, including alternative provision, e.g. independent schools "

### **Isn't this just red tape. Teachers need to get on with teaching.**

This is a safeguarding and legal duty which ensures that children with medical conditions have access to the same education and opportunities as other children and importantly can be safe in school. It is tool and blue print for schools which will help them support these children. It concerns the whole school, not just teachers. With the right support and awareness in place in schools of this policy, teachers and other school staff are enabled to do their job to ensure all pupils get the most out of school.

### **There are no children with a long term health condition in my school, so what does that mean for my school?**

All schools in England must have a medical conditions policy in place that meets the statutory guidance regardless of whether they have children at their school with medical conditions or not. Pupils come and go from year to year so this policy they have the right procedures in place to support current and future pupils with medical conditions. If they do not have children with medical conditions at their school, they should be mindful to have a policy in place to ensure safe and inclusive transition of future students with medical conditions who may join the school.