



St Thomas More RC College

Policy: **Medical Policy**

This policy will be reviewed every 12 months

Author	J Kirk	
	Signature of member of Governing body	Date
Policy approved or reviewed (delete as appropriate)		16 January 2024

Policy Statement

St Thomas More RC College is an inclusive community that welcomes and supports pupils with medical* conditions.

We aim to provide all pupils with any medical condition the same opportunities as others at college. Pupils with medical conditions are encouraged to take control of their condition and feel confident in the support they receive from the college to help them do this. We aim to ensure parents/carers of pupils with medical conditions feel secure in the care their children receive at this college.

We will help to ensure they can:

- be healthy
- stay safe
- enjoy and achieve
- make a positive contribution
- achieve economic wellbeing.

The college makes sure all staff understand their duty of care to children and young people in the event of an emergency.

All staff feel confident in knowing what to do in an emergency.

The college understands that certain medical conditions are serious and potentially life threatening, particularly if poorly managed or misunderstood.

The college understands the importance of medication and care being taken as directed by healthcare professionals and parents.

All staff understand the medical conditions that affect pupils at this college. Staff receive training on the impact medical conditions can have on pupils.

The named member of college staff responsible for this medical conditions policy and its implementation is:

Miss J Kirk SENDCo

Policy Framework

1. This college is an inclusive community that supports and welcomes pupils with medical conditions.

- This college is welcoming and supportive of pupils with medical conditions. It provides children with medical conditions with the same opportunities and access to activities (both college based and out-of-college) as other pupils. No child will be denied admission or prevented from taking up a place in this college because arrangements for their medical condition have not been made.
- This college will listen to the views of pupils and parents.
- Pupils and parents feel confident in the care they receive from this college and the level of that care meets their needs.
- Staff understand the medical conditions of pupils at this college and that they may be serious, adversely affecting a child's quality of life and impact on their ability to learn.
- All staff understand their duty of care to children and young people and know what to do in the event of an emergency.
- The whole college and local health community understand and support the medical conditions policy.
- This college understands that all children with the same medical condition will not have the same needs.
- The college recognises that duties in the Children and Families Act (England only), the Equality Act (England, Wales and Scotland) and the Disability Discrimination Act (Northern Ireland only) relate to children with disability or medical conditions is anticipatory.

2. This college's medical conditions policy is drawn up in consultation with a wide range of local key stakeholders within both the college and health settings.

- Stakeholders should include pupils, parents, school nurse, college staff, governors, the college employer and relevant local health services.

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

- Pupils, parents, relevant local healthcare staff, and other external stakeholders are informed of and reminded about the medical conditions policy through clear communication channels.

4. All staff understand and are trained in what to do in an emergency for children with medical conditions at this college.

- All college staff, including temporary or supply staff, are aware of the medical conditions at this college and understand their duty of care to pupils in an emergency.
- All children with a medical condition at this college have an individual healthcare plan (IHP), which explains what help they need in an emergency. The IHP will accompany a pupil should they need to attend hospital. Parental permission will be sought and recorded in the IHP for sharing the IHP within emergency care settings.
- **Medical Codes**
In College we have pupils who have one or more of the following 4 medical conditions:

M1 Anaphylaxis (Allergies)

M2 Asthma

M3 Diabetes

M4 Epilepsy

Each of these 4 medical conditions may present with complications which could become potentially life threatening if not dealt with correctly.

M5 code indicates if a pupil has a medical condition which requires permission to go to the toilet whenever requested.

5. All staff understand and are trained in the college's general emergency procedures.

- All staff, including temporary or supply staff, know what action to take in an emergency and receive updates at least yearly.
- If a pupil needs to attend hospital, a member of staff (preferably known to the pupil) will stay with them until a parent arrives, or accompany a child taken to hospital by ambulance. They will not take pupils to hospital in their own car.

6. This college has clear guidance on providing care and support and administering medication at school.

- This college understands the importance of medication being taken and care received as detailed in the pupil's IHP.
- This college will make sure that there are several members of staff who have been trained to administer the medication and meet the care needs of an individual child. This includes escort staff for home to college transport if necessary. This college will ensure that there are sufficient numbers of staff trained to cover any absences, staff turnover and other contingencies. This college's governing body has made sure that there is the appropriate level of insurance and liability cover in place.

- This college will not give medication (prescription or non-prescription) to a child under 16 without a parent's written consent except in exceptional circumstances, and every effort will be made to encourage the pupil to involve their parent, while respecting their confidentiality.
- When administering medication, for example pain relief, this college will check the maximum dosage and when the previous dose was given. Parents will be informed. This college will not give a pupil under 16 aspirin unless prescribed by a doctor.
- This college will make sure that a trained member of staff is available to accompany a pupil with a medical condition on an off-site visit, including overnight stays.
- Parents at this college understand that they should let the school know immediately if their child's needs change.
- If a pupil misuses their medication, or anyone else's, their parent is informed as soon as possible and the college's disciplinary procedures are followed.

7. This college has clear guidance on the storage of medication and equipment at school.

- This college makes sure that all staff understand what constitutes an emergency for an individual child and makes sure that emergency medication/equipment is readily available wherever the child is in the college and on off-site activities, and is not locked away. Pupils may carry their emergency medication with them if they wish/this is appropriate.
- Pupils may carry their own medication/equipment, or they should know exactly where to access it.
- Pupils can carry controlled drugs if they are competent, otherwise this college will keep controlled drugs stored securely, but accessibly, with only named staff having access. Staff at this college can administer a controlled drug to a pupil once they have had specialist training.
- This college will make sure that all medication is stored safely, and that pupils with medical conditions know where they are at all times and have access to them immediately.
- This college will store medication that is in date and labelled in its original container where possible, in accordance with its instructions. The exception to this is insulin, which though must still be in date, will generally be supplied in an insulin injector pen or a pump.
- Parents are asked to collect all medications/equipment at the end of the college term, and to provide new and in-date medication at the start of each term.
- This college disposes of needles and other sharps in line with local policies. Sharps boxes are kept securely at college and will accompany a child on off-site visits. They are collected and disposed of in line with local authority procedures.

8. This college has clear guidance about record keeping.

- Parents at this college are asked if their child has any medical conditions on the enrolment form.
- This college uses an IHP to record the support an individual pupil needs around their medical condition. The IHP is developed with the pupil (where appropriate), parent, college staff, specialist nurse (where appropriate) and relevant healthcare services.
- This college has a centralised register of IHPs, and an identified member of staff has the responsibility for this register.
- IHPs are regularly reviewed, at least every year or whenever the pupil's needs change.
- College staff are made aware of and have access to the IHP for the pupils in their care.
- This college makes sure that the pupil's confidentiality is protected.
- This college seeks permission from parents before sharing any medical information with any other party.
- This college meets with the pupil (where appropriate), parent, specialist nurse (where appropriate) and relevant healthcare services prior to any overnight or extended day visit to discuss and make a plan for any extra care requirements that may be needed. This is recorded in the pupil's IHP which accompanies them on the visit.
- This college keeps an accurate record of all medication administered, including the dose, time, date and supervising staff.
- This college makes sure that all staff providing support to a pupil have received suitable training and ongoing support, to make sure that they have confidence to provide the necessary support and that they fulfil the requirements set out in the pupil's IHP. This should be provided by the specialist nurse/school nurse/other suitably qualified healthcare professional and/or the parent. The specialist nurse/school nurse/other suitably qualified healthcare professional will confirm their competence, and this school keeps an up-to-date record of all training undertaken and by whom.

9. This college ensures that the whole college environment is inclusive and favourable to pupils with medical conditions. This includes the physical environment, as well as social, sporting and educational activities.

- This college is committed to providing a physical environment accessible to pupils with medical conditions and pupils are consulted to ensure this accessibility. This college is also committed to an accessible physical environment for out-of-school activities.
- This college makes sure the needs of pupils with medical conditions are adequately considered to ensure their involvement in structured and unstructured activities, extended school activities and residential visits.

- All staff are aware of the potential social problems that pupils with medical conditions may experience and use this knowledge, alongside the college's bullying policy, to help prevent and deal with any problems. They use opportunities such as CPSHE and science lessons to raise awareness of medical conditions to help promote a positive environment.
- This college understands the importance of all pupils taking part in physical activity and that all relevant staff make appropriate adjustments to physical activity sessions to make sure they are accessible to all pupils. This includes out-of-college clubs and team sports.
- This college understands that all relevant staff are aware that pupils should not be forced to take part in activities if they are unwell. They should also be aware of pupils who have been advised to avoid/take special precautions during activity, and the potential triggers for a pupil's medical condition when exercising and how to minimise these.
- This college makes sure that pupils have the appropriate medication/ equipment/food with them during physical activity.
- This college makes sure that pupils with medical conditions can participate fully in all aspects of the curriculum and enjoy the same opportunities at college as any other child, and that appropriate adjustments and extra support are provided.
- All college staff understand that frequent absences, or symptoms, such as limited concentration and frequent tiredness, may be due to a pupil's medical condition. This college will not penalise pupils for their attendance if their absences relate to their medical condition.
- This college will refer pupils with medical conditions who are finding it difficult to keep up educationally to the SENDCo, Special Educational Needs Advisor who will liaise with the pupil (where appropriate), parent and the pupil's healthcare professional.
- Pupils at this college learn what to do in an emergency.
- This college makes sure that a risk assessment is carried out before any out-of-college visit, including work experience and educational placements. The needs of pupils with medical conditions are considered during this process and plans are put in place for any additional medication, equipment or support that may be required.

10. This college is aware of the common triggers that can make common medical conditions worse or can bring on an emergency.

- This college is committed to identifying and reducing triggers both at college and on out-of-school visits.
- College staff have been given training and written information on medical conditions which includes avoiding/reducing exposure to common triggers.
- The IHP details an individual pupil's triggers and details how to make sure the pupil remains safe throughout the whole college day and on out-of-college activities. Risk assessments are carried out on all out-of-college activities, taking into account the needs of pupils with medical needs.

- This college reviews all medical emergencies and incidents to see how they could have been avoided, and changes college policy according to these reviews.

11. Each member of the college and health community knows their roles and responsibilities in maintaining and implementing an effective medical conditions policy.

- This college works in partnership with all relevant parties including the pupil (where appropriate), parent, college's governing body, all college staff, employers and healthcare professionals to ensure that the policy is planned, implemented and maintained successfully.

12. The medical conditions policy is regularly reviewed, evaluated and updated. Updates are produced every year.

- In evaluating the policy, this college seeks feedback from key stakeholders including pupils, parents, college healthcare professionals, specialist nurses and other relevant healthcare professionals, college staff, local emergency care services, governors and the college employer. The views of pupils with medical conditions are central to the evaluation process.

*The term 'medical' implies both medical and mental health conditions.

**The term 'parent' implies any person or body with parental responsibility such as a foster parent, carer, guardian or local authority.