St Mary’s Primary School Rathfriland



 Medical Conditions Policy

ST. MARY’S PRIMARY SCHOOL

St. Mary’s P.S Mission Statement

St Mary’s Primary School is a Catholic school committed to the education of the whole child. We endeavour to create a happy and secure environment, unlocking the full potential of all individuals, thereby developing confident and independent learners.

From the Mission Statement, we in St Mary’s would aim to:

* **Create an ethos that actively promotes Catholic values, with the support of parents and the parish community.**
* **Embrace diversity and promote respect for all.**
* **Celebrate our self-worth and understand our individual talents and achievements.**
* **Develop an environment where children feel secure to express their feelings.**
* **Provide a curriculum which promotes friendly relationships with the children in our care, their families, the parish and the wider community.**

**St. Mary’s Primary School is an inclusive community that supports and welcomes pupils with medical conditions.**

* St. Mary’s Primary school is welcoming and supportive of pupils with medical conditions. It provides children with medical conditions the same opportunities and access to activities (both school based and out of school) as other pupils. No child will be denied admission or prevented from taking up a place in St. Mary’s Primary School l because of arrangements for their medical condition have not been made.
* St. Mary’s Primary School will listen to the views of pupils and parents.
* Pupils and parents feel confident in the care they receive from St. Mary’s Primary School and that the level of care meets their needs.
* Staff understand the medical conditions of pupils at St. Mary’s Primary School and that they may be serious adversely affect 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 school and local health community understand and support the medical conditions and policy.
* St. Mary’s Primary School understands that all children with the same medical condition will not have the same needs.
* St. Mary’s Primary School recognizes that duties in the Disability Discrimination Act (Northern Ireland only) relate to children with disability or medical conditions is anticipatory.

**St. Mary’s Primary School’s medical conditions policy is drawn up in consultation with a wide range of local key stakeholders within the school and health settings.**

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

**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 health care staff, and other external stakeholders are informed of and reminded about the clear medical conditions policy through clear communications channels.
* All school staff including temporary or supply staff, are aware of the medical conditions at St. Mary’s Primary School.
* All children with a medical condition at St. Mary’s Primary School 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.

**All staff understand and are trained in the school’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.

**St. Mary’s Primary School has clear guidance on providing care and support and administering medication at school.**

* St. Mary’s Primary School understands the importance of medication being taken and care received as detailed in the pupils IHP.
* St. Mary’s Primary School 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.
* St. Mary’s Primary School will not administer medication apart from insulin (diabetes) or assistance with inhalers.
* Parents at St. Mary’s Primary School understand that they should let the school know immediately if their child’s needs change.

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

* Pupils may carry their own medication/ equipment, or they should know exactly where to access it. E.g., inhalers.
* St. Mary’s Primary School will store relevant 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 pump.
* Parents are asked to collect all medications/ equipment at the end of the school term, and to provide new and in date medication at the start of each term.
* St. Mary’s Primary School disposes of needles and sharps. Sharps boxes are kept securely at school and will accompany a child on off site visits. They are collected by parents.

**St. Mary’s Primary School has clear guidance about record keeping.**

* Parents at St. Mary’s Primary School are asked if their child has any medical conditions on the enrolment form.
* St. Mary’s Primary School uses the pupils individual care plan to record the support an individual pupil needs around their medication.
* St. Mary’s Primary School has a centralised register of medical reports, and an identified member of staff has the responsibility for this register.
* Medical records are regularly reviewed, at least every year or whenever pupil’s needs change.
* The pupil (where appropriate) parents, specialist nurse (where appropriate) and relevant healthcare services hold a copy of the care plan. Other school staff are made aware of and have access to the IHP for the pupils in their care as they move through school.
* St. Mary’s Primary School makes sure that the pupils’ confidentiality is protected.
* We will seek permission from parents before sharing any medical information with any other party.
* This school meets with the pupil (where appropriate), parent, specialist nurse (where appropriate) and relevant health care services discuss and make a plan for any extra care requirements that may be needed. This is recorded in the pupils IHP which accompanies them on the visit.
* This school keeps an accurate record of all medication administered for diabetes, including the dose, time, date, and supervising staff.
* St. Mary’s Primary School 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 care plan. This should be provided by the specialist nurse and the parent. The specialist nurse will confirm their competence and this school keeps an up-to-date record of all training undertaken and by whom.

**St. Mary’s Primary School ensures that the whole school environment is inclusive and favourable to pupils with medical conditions. This includes the physical environment, as well as social, sporting, and educational activities.**

* St. Mary’s Primary School is committed to providing a physical environment accessible to pupils with medical conditions and pupils are consulted to ensure this accessibility. St. Mary’s Primary School is also committed to an accessible physical environment for out of school activities.
* St. Mary’s Primary School makes sure the needs of the 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 school’s bullying policy, to help prevent and deal with any problems. They use opportunities such as PDMU lessons to raise awareness of medical conditions to help promote a positive environment.
* St. Mary’s Primary School 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 school clubs and team sports.
* St. Mary’s Primary School 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.
* St. Mary’s Primary School makes sure that pupils have the appropriate medication/equipment/food with them during physical activity.
* St. Mary’s Primary School makes sure that pupils with medical conditions can participate fully in all aspects of the curriculum and enjoy the same opportunities at school as any other child, and that appropriate adjustments and extra support are provided.
* All school staff understand that frequent absences, or symptoms, such as limited concentration and frequent tiredness may be due to a pupil’s medical condition St. Mary’s Primary School will not penalise pupils for their attendance if their absence is related to their medical condition.
* St. Mary’s Primary School will refer pupils with medical conditions who are finding it difficult to keep up educationally to the SENCO. Who will liaise with the pupil (where appropriate), parent and the pupil’s healthcare professional.
* St. Mary’s Primary School make sure that a risk assessment is carried out before any out of school visit. 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.

**Each member of the school and health community knows their role and responsibilities in maintaining and implementing an effective medical conditions policy.**

* St. Mary’s Primary School works in partnership with all relevant parties including the pupil (where appropriate), parents, schools governing body, all school staff employers and healthcare professionals to ensure that policy is planned, implemented, and maintained successfully.

**The medical conditions policy is regularly reviewed, evaluated, and updated.**

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