



## St Peter's Anglican/Methodist Primary School

### MANAGING MEDICAL NEEDS POLICY

<b>School Address</b>	Bank Road Pilning South Gloucestershire BS35 4JG
<b>School Contact Number</b>	01454 631137

This policy is supplemental to the Council's Policy on the administration of medication and St Peter's Anglican Methodist Primary School's Health and Safety Policy.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

The school will properly support pupils at school with medical conditions so that they have full access to education, including school trips and physical education. The school will also put in place procedures to deal with emergency medical needs.

This Policy will be regularly reviewed and updated by the Full Governing Body on an annual basis. The overall responsibility for the effective implementation of this policy is held by the Headteacher. The school will work together with local authorities, health professionals and other support services to ensure that children with medical needs receive a full education. In some cases this will require flexibility and involve, for example, programmes of study that rely on part-time attendance at school in combination with alternative provision arranged by the local authority. Consideration will be given to how children will be reintegrated back into school after periods of absence.

No child with a medical condition will be denied admission or prevented from taking up a place in school because arrangements for their medical condition have not been made. However, in line with our safeguarding duties, we will ensure that pupils' health is not put at unnecessary risk from, for example, infectious diseases. We retain the right not to accept a child at school at times where it would be detrimental to the health of that child or to others.

#### 2. PROCEDURES

The following procedures are to be followed when notification is received that a pupil has a medical condition.

**2.1** A parent or a healthcare professional informs the school that:

- a child has been newly diagnosed, or;
- is due to attend a new school, or;
- is due to return to school after a long-term absence or
- has medical needs that have changed.

**2.2** The **Headteacher or SENCo** co-ordinates a meeting to discuss the child's medical support needs, and identifies the member of school staff who will provide support to the pupil.

- 2.3 A meeting will be held to discuss and agree on the need for an Individual Healthcare Plan (IHCP). The meeting will include key school staff, child, parent, relevant healthcare professional and other medical/healthcare clinician as appropriate (or to consider written evidence provided by them).
- 2.4 An IHCP will be developed in partnership, and the meeting will determine who will take the lead on writing it. Input from a healthcare professional must be provided.
- 2.5 School staff training needs will be identified.
- 2.6 Healthcare professional commissions or delivers appropriate training and staff are signed off as competent. A review date for the training will be agreed.
- 2.7 The IHCP will then be implemented and circulated to all relevant staff.
- 2.8 The IHCP will be reviewed annually or when the medical condition changes. The parent or healthcare professional will initiate the review.
- 2.9 For children starting at a new school, arrangements should be in place in time for the start of the relevant school term. In other cases, such as a new diagnosis or children moving to a new school mid-term, every effort will be made to ensure that arrangements are put in place within two weeks.

### **3. INDIVIDUAL HEALTHCARE PLANS**

- 3.1. Not all pupils with medical needs will require an IHCP. The school together with the healthcare professional and parent will agree, based on evidence, whether a healthcare plan would be inappropriate or disproportionate. If consensus cannot be reached the Headteacher will make the final decision.
- 3.2. The format of the IHCP will depend on the child's condition and the degree of support needed. Where a child has SEN but does not have a statement or EHC plan, their special educational needs will be mentioned in their healthcare plan.
- 3.3. The following will be considered when deciding what information will be recorded on IHCPs:
  - The medical condition, its triggers, signs, symptoms and treatment;
  - The pupil's needs including medication and other treatments;
  - Specific support for the pupil's educational, social and emotional needs;
  - The level of support needed (some children will be able to take responsibility for their own health needs) including in emergencies;
  - Who will provide this support, their training needs, expectation of their role and confirmation of proficiency, and cover arrangements for when absent;
  - Who in school needs to be aware of the child's condition and required support;
  - Arrangements for written permission from parents and the Headteacher for medication to be administered by a member of staff or self-administered by the pupil during school hours;
  - Separate arrangements or procedures required for school trips or other school activities outside of the normal school timetable that will ensure the child can participate e.g. risk assessments;
  - Where confidentiality issues are raised by the parent/child, the designated individuals to be entrusted with information about the child's condition; and
  - What to do in an emergency, including whom to contact, and contingency arrangements. Some children may have an emergency healthcare plan prepared by their lead clinician.

### **4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 4.1 Governing Body

- Must make arrangements to support pupils with medical conditions in school, including making sure that a policy for supporting pupils with medical conditions is developed and implemented.
- Ensure that sufficient staff have received suitable training and are competent before they take on responsibility to support children with medical conditions.

#### 4.2 Headteacher

- Ensure that the school's policy for supporting pupils with medical needs is developed and effectively implemented with partners. This includes ensuring that all staff are aware of the policy and understand their role in its implementation.
- Ensure that all staff who need to know (including first aiders) are aware of the child's condition.
- Ensure sufficient number of trained staff are available to implement and deliver all required IHCPs.
- Have overall responsibility for the development of IHCPs, including contingency and emergency arrangements.
- Ensure that school staff are appropriately insured and are aware they are insured to support pupils in this way.
- Ensure the school nurse is aware of children with medical conditions.

#### 4.3 School staff

- Any member of school staff may be asked to provide support to pupils with medical conditions, including the administering of medicines, although they cannot be required to do so.
- Should receive suitable and sufficient training and achieve the necessary level of competency before they take on responsibility to support children with medical conditions.
- Should know what to do and respond accordingly when they become aware that a pupil with a medical condition needs help.

#### 4.4 School nurse

- Responsible for notifying the school when a child has been identified as having a medical condition which will require support in school.
- Support staff to implement IHCPs, providing advice and training.
- Liaise with lead clinicians locally on support for child and associated staff training needs.

#### 4.5 Healthcare professionals (GPs etc)

- Notify school nurse when a child has been identified as having a medical condition that will require support at school.
- Provide advice on developing IHCPs.

#### 4.6 Pupils

- Full involvement in discussions about their medical support needs.
- Contribute to the development of, and comply with, IHCP.

#### 4.7 Parents

- Provide the school with sufficient and up-to-date information about their child's medical needs.
- Contribute to the development of the IHCP.
- Carry out any action they have agreed to as part of the IHCP implementation.

#### 4.8 Local Authority

- Provide support, advice and guidance, including suitable training for school staff, to ensure that the support identified in the IHCP can be delivered effectively.
- Where a pupil would not receive a suitable education in a mainstream school because of their health needs, to make other arrangements.

## **5. STAFF TRAINING AND SUPPORT**

- 5.1 Any member of school staff providing support to a pupil with medical needs will receive suitable training. All staff will have regularly updated Epipen training from the School Nurse.
- 5.2 The relevant healthcare professional will normally lead on identifying the type and level of training required. The training will be sufficient to ensure that staff are competent and have confidence in their ability to support pupils with medical conditions.
- 5.3 School staff will not give prescription medicines or undertake healthcare procedures without appropriate training.
- 5.4 All school staff will be made aware of the school's policy for supporting pupils with medical conditions, and their role in implementing that policy.

## **6. CHILD'S ROLE IN MANAGING THEIR OWN MEDICAL NEEDS**

- 6.1 Where a child is deemed competent to manage their own health needs and medicines, this should be reflected in their IHCP.
- 6.2 Wherever possible children will be allowed to carry their own medicines and relevant devices, and to access their medicines for self-medication quickly and easily, but with an appropriate level of supervision.

## **7. MANAGING MEDICINES ON SCHOOL PREMISES**

- 7.1 Medicines will only be administered at school when it would be detrimental to a child's health or school attendance not to do so.
- 7.2 No child under 16 will be given prescription or non-prescription medicines without their parent's written consent. The only circumstances in which non-prescription medicines may be administered are when a child can remain in school after being administered medicines such as Calpol or Piriton, which will need to be taken at home.
- 7.3 No child under 16 will be given medicine containing aspirin unless prescribed by a doctor.
- 7.4 Wherever possible prescribed medicines should be taken outside school hours.
- 7.5 The school will only accept prescribed medicines that are in-date, labelled, provided in the original container as dispensed by a pharmacist (except insulin which may be in a pen or pump) and include instructions for administration, dosage and storage. These should be for dosages of more than 3 times per day as parents should be able to administer these at home before and after school.
- 7.6 All medicines will be safely stored in a location which is known and accessible to the child.
- 7.7 Where a child has been prescribed a controlled drug, they may legally have it in their possession if they are competent to do so, but passing it to another child is an offence and will be dealt with accordingly.
- 7.8 The school will keep a record of all medicines administered to individual children stating what, how and how much was administered, when and by whom.
- 7.9 When no longer required, medicines will be returned to parents to arrange for safe disposal.

## **8. EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

- 8.1 Each IHCP will clearly define what constitutes an emergency and explain what to do, including ensuring that all relevant staff are aware of emergency symptoms and procedures.
- 8.2 If a child is taken to hospital, a member of school staff will stay with the child until the parent arrives.

## 9. USE OF EMERGENCY SALBUTAMOL INHALERS

9.1 From October 2014 schools have been allowed to keep salbutamol inhalers and spacers for use in emergencies. ***The school will administer inhalers from others if it is deemed necessary for a child's health and well-being. The guidance states 'The emergency salbutamol inhaler should only be used by children, for whom written parental consent for use of the emergency inhaler has been given, who have either been diagnosed with asthma and prescribed an inhaler, or who have been prescribed an inhaler as reliever medication.'***

## 10. DEFIBRILLATOR PROVISION

10.1 A defibrillator is a machine used to give an electric shock to restart a patient's heart when they are in cardiac arrest. The school **does not have** a defibrillator. However, there is access to one within the village of Pilning and it is located at the scout hut, Mafeking Hall, Redwick Road, BS35 4EQ box outside the Old School Hall, Sundays Hill. (There is also one available at the Plough Inn, Pilning Street, BS35 4JJ) The code can be accessed by calling 999 and requesting this.

## 11. DAY TRIPS, RESIDENTIAL VISITS AND SPORTING ACTIVITIES

11.1 Pupils with medical conditions will be actively supported to participate in school trips and visits, or in sporting activities.

11.2 School will consider what reasonable adjustments may be required to enable children with medical needs to participate fully and safely on trips and visits. This will be considered as part of the activity risk assessment to take account of any steps needed to ensure that pupils with medical conditions are included.

## 12 UNACCEPTABLE PRACTICE

12.1 The following is regarded by the school as unacceptable practice:

- Preventing children from easily accessing their inhalers and medication;
- Assuming that every child with the same condition requires the same treatment;
- Ignoring the views of the child, parents or medical professionals;
- Sending children with medical conditions home frequently, or preventing them from staying for normal school activities;
- Penalising children for their attendance record if their absences are related to their medical condition;
- Preventing pupils from drinking, eating or taking toilet breaks whenever they need to in order to manage their medical condition effectively;
- Requiring parents to attend school to administer medication or provide medical support to their child including toileting issues; and
- Preventing children from participating, or creating unnecessary barriers to children participating, in any aspect of school life, including school trips.

## 13. LIABILITY AND INDEMNITY

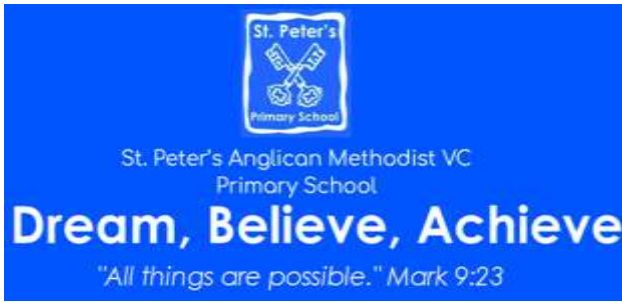
13.1 The school is covered for whole school and personal indemnity by Zurich Insurance Services through South Gloucestershire LA.

## 14. COMPLAINTS

14.1 If parents or pupils are dissatisfied with the support provided by the school to pupils with medical conditions, they should discuss their concerns directly with the school. If the issue remains unresolved, they may make a formal complaint via the school's complaint procedure. Please see and refer to the Complaints Policy.

**15. APPROVAL AND REVIEW**

This policy was reviewed November 2022 and will be reviewed annually.



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 Bank Road, Pilning, South Gloucestershire,  
 BS35 4JG  
 Tel: (01454) 631137  
 Email: [office@stpetersprimary.co.uk](mailto:office@stpetersprimary.co.uk)  
 Website: [www.stpetersprimary.co.uk](http://www.stpetersprimary.co.uk)

## Medical Needs - Parental Agreement for Setting to Administer Medicine

The school/setting will not give your child medicine unless you complete and sign this form, and the school or setting has a policy that the staff can administer medicine.

Name of school/setting	St Peter's Primary
Name of child	
Date of birth	
Group/class/form	
Medical condition or illness	

### Medicine

Name/type of medicine <i>(as described on the container)</i>	
Expiry date	
Dosage and method	
Timing	
Special precautions/other instruction	
Are there any side effects that the school/setting needs to know about?	
Self-administration – y/n	
Procedures to take in an emergency	

**NB: Medicines must be in the original container as dispensed by the pharmacy**

### Contact Details

Name	
Daytime telephone no.	
Relationship to child	
Address	
I understand that I must deliver the medicine personally to	Clare Trayler/Jemma Sheppard

The above information is, to the best of my knowledge, accurate at the time of writing and I give consent to school/setting staff administering medicine in accordance with the school/setting policy. I will inform the school/setting immediately, in writing, if there is any change in dosage or frequency of the medication or if the medicine is stopped.

Signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



Executive Head Teacher: Mr Paul Smith

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Tel: (01454) 631137

Email: [office@stpetersprimary.co.uk](mailto:office@stpetersprimary.co.uk)

Website: [www.stpetersprimary.co.uk](http://www.stpetersprimary.co.uk)

### Medical Needs: Record of Medicine Administered to an Individual Child

Name of school/setting	St Peter's Primary
Name of child	
Date medicine provided by parent	
Group/class/form	
Quantity received	
Name and strength of medicine	
Expiry date	
Quantity returned	
Dose and frequency of medicine	

Staff signature \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of parent \_\_\_\_\_

Date			
Time given			
Dose given			
Name of member of staff			
Staff initials			

Date			
Time given			
Dose given			
Name of member of staff			
Staff initials			





## **HEALTHCARE PLAN**

This Healthcare Plan has been produced for  
.....

Class .....

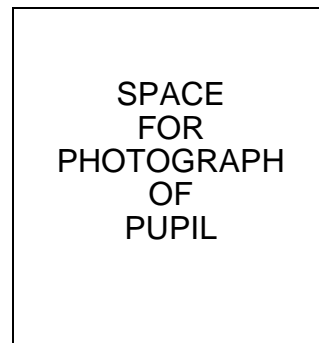
He/She suffers from ..... (add in name of condition)

Date Plan agreed for implementation and/or period plan in place for:

.....

Date of Review:

.....



### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

#### **Family Contacts**

1	Name .....	2	Name .....
	Relationship .....		Relationship .....
	Phone No (home) .....		Phone No (home) .....

(work) .....

(work)

.....  
**Medical Contacts**

3 GP Name ..... 4 OTHER Name .....

Phone No ..... Title .....

Phone No .....

**Emergency Contact**

DIAL 999, ASK FOR AMBULANCE, GIVE ADDRESS OF SCHOOL AS BELOW

St Peter's Anglican Methodist VC Primary School  
Bank Road, Pilning, South Gloucestershire, BS35 4JG

and inform the operator of the medical condition.

**EMERGENCY ARRANGEMENTS**

(Add information on what constitutes an emergency for the pupil and what to do if this occurs.)

**COMPETENCE**

(Add information on staff deemed to be competent to deal with the medical needs of the pupil. Staff should be indicated in priority order where appropriate.)

**MEDICATION REQUIREMENTS**

(Add information on the normal medication requirements if applicable.)

**FOLLOW UP CARE AND RECORDING**

(Include details of what to do following an incident if the child remains in school. A record of the incident, whether or not the child remains in school, needs to be added to the details of medication administered form.)

**COPIES OF HEALTHCARE PLAN SENT TO**

Parent/Guardian (add in name and date provided)

.....

Child's Individual School File

Personnel who have agreed to administer medication (indicate number of copies)

Copy kept with Medication if not carried by the pupil

Copy to GP/Consultant



TO: PARENT/GUARDIAN

Dear

Further to your request for the school to administer medication to

.....

I am writing to advise you that in this case the school is able to accommodate the request.

***It would be appreciated therefore, if you could arrange to meet with me/..... to discuss the arrangements in this respect which need to be included in .....’s Healthcare Plan.***

OR

***From the details provided on the “Request to Administer Medication Form” the attached Healthcare Plan has been produced and it would be appreciated if you would confirm that this plan is felt to be appropriate.***

I trust that the above is clear and would hope that ..... will continue to participate fully in the activities of the school.

Yours sincerely

P D Smith  
Executive Headteacher



TO: PARENT/GUARDIAN

Dear

Further to your request to administer medication to ..... I very much regret that this request is unable to be accommodated.

This is because the school does not have

- a) anyone who is willing to administer the medication
- b) the space to accommodate storage of short-term medication as indicated in the school policy on administration of medication/.....

If a) can I suggest therefore that we need to discuss possible alternative arrangements.

Yours sincerely

P D Smith  
Headteacher

# **MEDICAL CONDITIONS**

## **1 - ASTHMA**

### **Background Information**

Asthma is a common condition that requires regular medical supervision. Approximately 1 pupil in 20 has asthma so most schools will probably have several pupils in attendance who are asthmatic.

An asthma attack occurs when an individual's airways contract as a result of a trigger. Triggers vary but include viral infections, cold air, pollen etc. Exercise and stress are also triggers or can contribute to/aggravate the results of attacks. An asthma attack is characterised by coughing, wheeziness and difficulty in breathing.

Asthma is normally effectively managed by the use of medication and pupils at a very early age learn to manage their own medication.

### **Emergency Arrangements**

The information in the Healthcare Plan under this heading will normally indicate the following or similar:

***Should (name of pupil) have difficulty breathing, or continue to cough, or appear to be wheezy he/she should be given the opportunity/encouraged to use his/her medication immediately. If it is possible to identify the trigger and remove it, ie: move indoors out of cold air or away from pollen, then this should be done. The pupil should be comforted/given support as appropriate.***

***If after medication is administered there is no improvement in the condition or the condition deteriorates then medical advice must be sought and/or an ambulance called.***

***NB the medication can take some 5 to 10 minutes to take effect but if the child is becoming distressed or unduly tired, call an ambulance.***

### **Medication Requirements**

The information in the Healthcare Plan under this heading will normally indicate the following or similar:

***(Name of Pupil) will make use of his/her inhaler/nebuliser at (indicate when he/she will need to use the inhaler/nebuliser if regularly) as and when required. This may be more frequently in cold weather or prior to PE. The pupil will normally require (indicate usual number of "puffs") ..... puffs.***

***The inhaler/nebuliser contains (add information on chemical) and is kept in (classroom/office)/carried by the pupil. The inhaler is blue/brown and is marked with his/her name or the nebuliser is marked with his/her name.***

***The pupil is able to use the inhaler/nebuliser without assistance/requires assistance with the inhaler/nebuliser. This will involve reminding the pupil to use the inhaler/supervising the pupils' use of the inhaler/helping to hold the nebuliser.***

### **Competence**

All staff are able to assist in reminding pupils/supervising pupils taking the medication. The parent/guardian/school nurse/first aider will demonstrate the use of inhalers/nebulisers' as appropriate.

## **2 - EPILEPSY**

## Background Information

Epilepsy is a condition which affects around 1 pupil in 130 which means that many schools will at some point have children attending with this condition.

The symptoms of children with epilepsy are normally well controlled by medication and seizures are unlikely during the school day. In the majority of cases the trigger/s which cause an epileptic fit are unknown although certain factors, ie: tiredness or anxiety, sometimes affect a pupil's susceptibility. Flashing or flickering lights, video games etc. can be triggers for seizures in some pupils. Parents should be encouraged to tell schools of likely triggers so that action can be taken to minimise exposure to them.

Not all pupils with epilepsy will experience major seizures (commonly called fits). Where pupils do, the nature, frequency and severity of the seizure will vary greatly between individuals. Some can exhibit unusual behaviour, eg: plucking at clothes, repetitive movements etc., experience strange sensations, or become confused instead of, or as well as, experiencing convulsions and/or loss of consciousness.

Examples of different types of seizures are given below:

### a) Tonic Clonic Seizures

During tonic phase of a tonic clonic seizure the muscles become rigid and the person usually falls to the ground. Incontinence may occur. The pupil's pallor may change to a dusky blue colour. Breathing may be laboured during the seizure. During the clonic phase of the seizure these will gradually cease. Some pupils only experience the tonic phase and others only the clonic phase. The pupil may feel confused for several minutes after a seizure. Recovery times will vary with some pupils requiring a few seconds to recover whilst others will need to sleep for several hours.

### b) Absence Seizures

These are short periods of staring, or blanking out and are non-convulsive generalised seizures. They last only a few seconds and are most often seen in children. A pupil having this kind of seizure is momentarily completely unaware of anyone/thing around him/her but quickly returns to full consciousness without falling or loss of muscle control. These seizures are so brief that the pupil may not notice that anything has happened. Parents and teachers may think that the pupil is being inattentive or is daydreaming.

### c) Partial Seizures

Partial seizures are those in which the epileptic activity is limited to a particular area of the brain.

### d) Simple Partial Seizures (when consciousness is not impaired)

This seizure may be presented in a variety of ways depending on where in the brain the epileptic activity is occurring.

### e) Complex Partial Seizures (when consciousness is impaired)

This is the most common type of partial seizure. During a temporal lobe complex partial seizure the pupil will experience some alteration in consciousness. They may be dazed, confused and detached from their surroundings. They may exhibit what appears to be strange behaviour, such as plucking at their clothes, smacking their lips or searching for an object.

## Emergency Arrangements

The information in the Healthcare Plan will vary considerably but will indicate the symptoms where known, ie: in case of tonic clonic seizures whether the pupil will fall to the ground, become incontinent etc. The emergency medication required will normally be administration of rectal diazepam. The information in the Healthcare Plan under this heading will normally indicate the following or similar:

***Should (Name of Pupil) suffer a seizure, which will normally involve ....., nothing is to be done to stop or alter the course of the seizure***

***Unless Emergency Medication is required. The pupil should not be moved unless he or she is in a dangerous place but something soft can be placed under his or her head. The pupil's airway must be maintained at all times. The pupil should not be restrained and there should be no attempt to put anything into the mouth. Once the convulsion has stopped, the pupil should be turned on his/her side and put into the recovery position. Someone should stay with the pupil until he or she recovers and re-orientates.***

or

***Should (name of pupil) suffer an epileptic fit which lasts for ..... minutes or more/suffers ..... seizures then he/she will need to have rectal diazepam administered. The competent member of staff, in company with a second adult, will administer the medication. Initially ..... milligrams of rectal (add in name of drug) ..... will be administered. In the event there are difficulties administering the medication, eg: diarrhoea, call an ambulance. If the fit/seizures continue a second dose of ..... milligrams of rectal (add in name of drug) are to be administered. If the fit/seizures continue for ..... minutes call an ambulance, see Emergency Contact above, and notify family contact.***

### **Medication Requirements**

In the case of Epilepsy this section will usually be left blank. This is because in most cases involving epilepsy in schools only emergency medication will be required.

### **Competence**

Staff who volunteer to administer the emergency medication must have received training from an approved source. This will involve information on the specific type of epilepsy, the possible triggers and instruction/demonstration on administering the medication.

## **3 - DIABETES**

### **Background Information**

Diabetes affects around 1 pupil in 700 so schools may not come across this condition very often. It is a condition where an individual's hormonal mechanisms do not control their blood glucose levels.

The diabetes of the majority of pupils is controlled by two injections of insulin each day. These will not normally need to be given during school hours but children with diabetes need to ensure that their blood glucose levels remain stable. This will involve using a testing machine, at regular intervals, which may need to be done during the school day.

Pupils with diabetes must be allowed to eat regularly during the day which may involve eating snacks during class time or prior to exercise. If a meal or snack is missed, or after strenuous activity, the pupil may experience a hypoglycaemia episode (a hypo) during which his or her blood sugar level falls to too low a level. Staff in charge of physical education classes or other physical activity sessions should be aware of the need for pupils with diabetes to have glucose tablets or a sugary drink to hand.

### **Hypoglycaemic Reaction**

Staff should be aware that the following symptoms, either individually or combined, may be indicators of a hypo in a pupil with diabetes:

- hunger
- sweating
- drowsiness
- pallor



- glazed eyes
- shaking
- lack of concentration
- irritability

Each pupil may experience different symptoms and this should be discussed when drawing up the Healthcare Plan.

**NB** Greater than usual need to go to the toilet or to drink, tiredness and weight loss may indicate poor diabetic control. If any such symptoms are noted these should be brought to the attention of the parent.

### Emergency Arrangements

The information in the Healthcare Plan under this heading will normally indicate the following or similar:

***Should (name of pupil) suffer an hypo, which will normally involve him/her appearing drowsy/starting to shake/becoming irritable/ ....., he/she should be given the opportunity/encouraged to take a glucose tablet/sugary drink/ ..... The hypo should pass within (usually 10 - 15 minutes) ..... and if it persists past this time call an ambulance, see Emergency Contact above, and notify the family contact.***

***If the pupil recovers within ..... minutes he/she should be encouraged to consume a slower acting starchy food, eg: glass of milk.***

### Medication Requirements

The information in the Healthcare Plan under this heading will normally indicate the following or similar:

***(Name of pupil) will need to be reminded to check his/her blood glucose levels at lunchtime/breaktimes. Specify period ..... The pupil will need no assistance/help with the test kit but is to use the kit ....., so that he/she is not likely to be disturbed by other pupils.***

### Competence

All staff are able to assist in reminding pupils/supervising pupils using the test kit. The use of the test kit will be demonstrated to staff by parent/school nurse as appropriate.

## 4 - ANAPHYLAXIS

### Background Information

Anaphylaxis is an extreme allergic reaction requiring urgent medical treatment. No figures have yet been provided for the number of pupils who currently suffer from this condition but a number of schools already have pupils in attendance who have been diagnosed with the condition.

When these severe allergies are diagnosed, the children concerned are made aware from a very early age of what they can and cannot eat and drink and, in the majority of cases, they go through the whole of their school lives without incident. Schools can help to ensure this by asking all parents not to provide certain foods for their children and explaining why.

The most common cause of anaphylaxis is food, eg: legumes (nuts), fish, dairy products. Wasp and bee stings can also cause allergic reaction. In its most severe form, the condition can be life-

threatening, but it can be treated with medication. This may include antihistamine, adrenaline inhaler or adrenaline injection, depending on the severity of the reaction.

For some children, the timing of the injection may be crucial. This needs to be clear in the Healthcare Plan and suitable procedures put in place so that swift action can be taken in an emergency.

### **Allergic Reactions**

Symptoms and signs will normally appear within seconds or minutes after exposure to the allergen. These may include:

- a metallic taste or itching in the mouth
- swelling of the face, throat, tongue and lips
- difficulty in swallowing
- flushed complexion
- abdominal cramps and nausea
- a rise in heart rate
- collapse or unconsciousness
- wheezing or difficulty breathing

Each pupil's symptoms and allergens will vary and will need to be discussed when drawing up the Healthcare Plan.

### **Emergency Arrangements**

The information in the Healthcare Plan under this heading will normally indicate the following or similar:

***Should (name of pupil) have/thought to have consumed any food product containing legumes/..... and/or exhibits/indicates the following symptoms, wheeziness/difficulty breathing/abdominal cramps/ ..... he/she will be given the Epipen adrenaline auto injection into the fleshy part of the thigh. An ambulance will also be called, see Emergency Contact above, and the Family Contact notified.***

### **Medication Requirements**

In the case of Anaphylaxis this section will usually be left blank. This is because in most cases involving anaphylaxis only emergency medication will be required.

### **Competence**

Staff who volunteer to administer the emergency medication must have received training from an approved source. The training will cover information on the cause of the allergic reaction and instruction/demonstration/practice on administering the medication, ie: using the Epipen. The use of the Epipen is quite simple but staff usually like refresher training from time to time as the Epipen is rarely used.

Training can be provided by GP/Consultant/School Nurse/First Aid provider.