

## How to get support with Health

This is a brief guide to inform families how children with health and medical needs should be supported. It will touch on what the law says and what to generally expect from an education setting.

### Links to the Law:

'Supporting Children with Medical Needs in School'  
'The SEND code of Practice'

### Duties on Schools:

*"Pupils at school with medical conditions should be properly supported so that they have full access to education, including school trips and physical education."*

- All pupil's **mental** and **physical** health should be supported.
- All schools should have a policy for supporting children with medical needs
- All children with medical needs should be treated as an individual.
- All schools should look at removing the barriers the pupil faces in taking part.
- There is normally a named person who is responsible for pupils with medical needs.

### Health Care Plans:

- The school may make an individual health care plan when appropriate.
- This will explain what steps need to be taken to support the pupil
- It will generally include: medical condition, triggers, signs, symptoms, treatments, who will administer medication.
- The lead person should ensure all staff are aware and trained.
- The plan should be created with the parents' and pupils' views.
- Schools might also make risk assessments about whether it is safe to go on school trips and how they will support the pupil on a trip.

### Outside Professionals:

- Health, school and other relevant agencies should work together.
- Outside professionals should be spoken to if pupils need extra help.
- Strategies and advice should be followed

### When a child is out of school due to a medical need:

- Inform the school ASAP when you know a pupil is going to be off for appointments so it can be recorded.
- A school should not send a child home regularly because it is 'easier'.
- A school should not reduce a pupil's timetable to part time unless it is agreed by all parties and is in the pupil's best interests.

- If a pupil is absent for more than 15 days the Local Authority (LA) is responsible for providing education.
- Schools should work with family and pupil to help the reintegration back into school and understand the *emotional* effect medical needs can have on pupils.

### Special Education Needs (SEND) and Health Care Needs:

- Children with medical needs may also have SEND.
- Schools should work with parents to see if referrals are needed – for example to Speech and language therapy (SALT), Occupational Therapy (OT) or The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHs)
- Parents can also self-refer to services.
- You may have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) which states the pupil needs SALT and OT therapy. (please read our factsheet about EHCPs)
- Even though SALT and OT are 'health' if they *educate or train* then they are considered as an educational need and provision.

### What to do if things are not going to plan:

- If you believe a pupil's needs are not being supported you should raise this with the class teacher and/or the schools SENCO. Depending on how this goes you may need to speak to the Head.
- You may wish to follow the school's complaints procedure and each school will have details of how to complain on their website.
- If the school are refusing to let someone on a school trip you can ask to see the risk assessment they did to come to that decision.
- If you are worried your child is not getting the OT or SALT therapy it specifies in the EHCP, first speak to the school but if not resolved the ultimate duty lies with the LA and you should speak to them.
- You can contact [Harrow SENDIAS](#) to discuss any specific issues and we can help to guide you through the next steps and what action to take.

### Where to begin...

- If you feel your child may have additional health needs, make an appointment to see your GP. They may then refer your child for treatment e.g [physiotherapy](#) or [SALT](#) ) or more specialist assessments (eg at a local hospital).
- It may be useful to speak to other professionals such as the school nurse, SENCO, or health visitor.

- If your child has complex health care needs, speak to [Harrow Sendias](#) team, who will be able to advise you on their eligibility for a health care plan.
- We can also provide information about local support groups and forums.
- If you are not happy with the health care your child is receiving or a diagnosis your child has received, [Harrow Sendias](#) team can assist you with resolving your concerns or even with making a complaint.

You might find it useful to browse the website of your local [Healthwatch](#) service. This offers advice and support about all health-related services and can advise on making health complaints.

#### Question ideas to ask the school:

- How do you support children with needs to access the curriculum?
- Where can I find the school's policies?
- What support do you get from outside agencies?
- How do you deliver advice from outside agencies/professionals?
- What sort of training do staff have to support pupils with needs?
- How can I expect to be involved in creating plans?
- How often will the plan be reviewed and how will I be involved in this?

#### Extra Information:

- <https://www.ipsea.org.uk/health-and-social-care>
- <https://childlawadvice.org.uk/information-pages/supporting-children-with-medical-needs-in-schools/>