

Midfield Primary School



POLICY DOCUMENT

Children with Epilepsy

	Name	Date
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The School Policy to Support Children with Epilepsy

Aims

To ensure that children with epilepsy:

- are healthy
- stay safe
- enjoy and achieve
- make a positive contribution to the life of the school

This policy is intended to ensure that appropriate processes are in place to fully support and safeguard pupils at Midfield Primary School who have epilepsy. It has been prepared with reference to information available from Young Epilepsy.

Communication With Parents

When a pupil who has epilepsy joins Midfield Primary School or an existing student is diagnosed with epilepsy, a meeting will be arranged with the parents (and pupil where appropriate) to:

- Discuss the pupil's medical needs, including the type of epilepsy he or she has
- Discuss if and how the pupil's epilepsy and medication affect his or her ability to concentrate and learn, and how the pupil can be supported with thi
- Discuss any potential barriers to the pupil taking part in all activities and school life, including day and residential trips, and how these barriers can be overcome
- Advise parents and the pupil of the school's epilepsy policy and the presence of the School Epilepsy Champion
- Discuss with parents and the pupil the arrangements for ensuring that all relevant staff are trained and other pupils are epilepsy aware
- Ensure that both medical prescription and parental consent are in place for staff to administer any necessary medication
- Initiate the completion of an Individual Healthcare Plan, including types of seizures, symptoms, possible triggers, procedures before and after a seizure and medicines to be administered
- Discuss how the school, parents and pupil can best share information about the pupil's progress in school and any changes to his or her epilepsy and medication.

A record of what was discussed and agreed at this meeting will be kept by the school.

After the initial meeting, the school will continue to share information with the pupil's parents and to involve the parents in any decision making process. Where appropriate the pupil will also be involved in this process.

Communication With Health Professionals

Midfield Primary School recognises that information held by the school, such as changes to the pupil's seizure patterns and changes to the pupil's behaviour, may be extremely useful to the pupil's healthcare team. Where appropriate and with the parents' permission the school will share this information, either via the parents, or directly, with the pupil's healthcare team. Midfield Primary School will also encourage information sharing between health and education, for example changes in medication or seizure patterns.

Communication With School Staff

All appropriate staff, including teachers and office staff will be told which children in the school have epilepsy, and what type of epilepsy they have. All staff (teaching and support) who are responsible for a child with epilepsy, will receive basic epilepsy awareness training,

including what to do if a child has a seizure. New staff will be given this information as part of their induction.

At the beginning of the academic year or immediately following the pupil's diagnosis, a meeting will be arranged to discuss the pupils support needs. At this meeting all attendees will be provided with a copy of the child's Health Care Protocols and Risk Assessment

Changes to the Health Care Protocols will be shared with appropriate members of staff.

Communication With the Pupils who have Epilepsy

The school will give voice to the views of pupils with epilepsy, for example regarding feeling safe, respect from other pupils, teasing and bullying, what should happen during and following a seizure, adjustments to support them in learning, adjustments to enable full participation in school life and raising epilepsy awareness in school.

School Life

An inclusive environment:

Pupils with epilepsy will not be isolated or stigmatised and will be allowed to take a full part in the school curriculum and school life, including activities and school trips (day and residential). Parents and staff will discuss any special requirements prior to such events.

Staff will consider the reasonable adjustments necessary to enable the pupil to participate fully in school life and to reach their full potential. This might include changes to timetables, activities or trips. These adjustments will be recorded and shared with other appropriate members of staff.

Raised Awareness

Awareness of epilepsy should be raised across the whole school community. Particular attention will be given to the pupil's peer group so that they know what to expect, are not scared by a seizure and know what to do if a pupil has a seizure.

Mentor / Buddy

If appropriate or desired, the school will offer support by providing a mentor or buddy for the pupil.

Education

The academic progress and wellbeing of pupils with epilepsy will be tracked and provision made for support or interventions through provision mapping. Class teachers will be supported in this by the SENCo and Inclusion Manager

The pupil will also be encouraged to reflect upon his or her achievements and whether he or she feels that his or her education is being affected by his or her epilepsy.

Any changes or problems identified, as well as strategies for supporting the pupil, will be discussed with the pupil's parents and, when appropriate, with the pupil. It may be appropriate to share information about these changes with the pupil's healthcare providers.

Medical Needs

- The pupil's Healthcare Protocol will be kept in the First Aid File, on the Medical Needs Wall of the staffroom (with parents permission) and in class.
- Any changes will be communicated rapidly by the Senior First Aider and/or the Inclusion Manager.
- Staff (including support staff) will be trained in first aid appropriate for the pupil's seizure type. This will be regularly reviewed in line with the pupils developing needs.
- If appropriate, a record will be kept of the pupil's seizures, so that any changes to seizure patterns can be identified and so that this information can be shared with the pupil's parents and healthcare team.
- If medication is required this should be kept in the school office in a container clearly marked with the pupils name. the medicine prescription should be visible on packaging and it should be in date (this should be regularly reviewed to be replaced by parents). If medication is required the protocol should be provided by parents and key staff trained to administer
- A record of staff trained in administering emergency medication will be kept and updated yearly

In the Event of a Seizure

- **Stay calm**
- **Follow protocols set out for the pupil in his Healthcare Plan**
- **Remove hazards from the environment to prevent injury – this may include removing other children from the classroom**
- **If possible protect the head but do not restrain**
- **Time the duration of the seizure and observe its characteristics (this information will be useful to parents and healthcare professionals)**
- **Observe breathing – maintain an airway**
- **Allow the pupil to regain full consciousness and assess his/her conscious state before moving them**
- **Offer the opportunity for rest in a calm and secluded area to maintain dignity. Ensure that parents are aware that their child has had a seizure and advise them on symptoms and current state.**
- **Reassure other pupils that all is well**

If staff remain concerned that a child's seizure exceeds the parameters set out in the Healthcare protocols call an ambulance and parents. If the ambulance arrives before parents a member of staff will accompany the child. Provide a verbal or written record of the time and characteristics of the seizure to paramedics if possible

Follow instructions and take appropriate emergency action to maintain airway and circulation