The New Walk School *Bespoke support. Brighter futures.*

Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy

The New Walk School policy framework

Policy	Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy	**Version**	V1
Issue date	08 May 2026	**Next review**	08 May 2027
Policy owner	Headteacher	**Approved by**	Directors of The New Walk School Ltd

1. About The New Walk School

The New Walk School is an independent specialist day school for pupils aged 7 to 19 who have Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs, autism spectrum conditions, learning difficulties and communication difficulties. The school is located on New Walk in Leicester — a setting with a long-standing association with academic life — and is operated by The New Walk School Ltd, a Company Limited by Guarantee.

The majority of our pupils hold an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and many have experienced previous educational placements that did not meet their needs. Our offer combines a broad academic curriculum with an in-built therapeutic provision rooted in the PACE model — Playfulness, Acceptance, Curiosity and Empathy — developed by Dr Dan Hughes. PACE is a relational approach designed to build trust, regulate distress and create the safety from which learning can take place. It informs how every adult in the school speaks to, listens to and works with our pupils.

2. The PACE therapeutic model in practice

Pupils with medical conditions sometimes feel different and exposed. PACE underpins our medical support so that managing a condition feels like ordinary, accepted care rather than something that sets the pupil apart:

- Playfulness — staff use a light, warm tone to reduce shame and de-escalate distress, using humour appropriate to the pupil and the moment.
- Acceptance — pupils' feelings and inner experiences are accepted unconditionally, even where specific behaviours are not. Acceptance is communicated before any limit is set.
- Curiosity — staff seek to understand the meaning behind a pupil's behaviour rather than reacting to its surface, asking 'what is this telling me?'
- Empathy — staff name and stay with the pupil's emotional experience, communicating that the pupil is not alone with what they feel.

PACE is not a behaviour-management tool layered on top of practice; it is the relational foundation from which all other aspects of the school operate.

3. Statutory framework

This policy is in line with Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014, the DfE's Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions guidance, and the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014.

4. Statement of intent

The New Walk School ensures that pupils with medical conditions receive the care they need to attend regularly, take part in school activities, and achieve their potential. We work in partnership with families and clinicians and we do not exclude pupils from activities for reasons that can be reasonably accommodated.

5. Individual Healthcare Plans (IHCPs)

An IHCP is put in place for every pupil whose medical condition could affect their safety or learning. IHCPs are co-produced with the pupil, family, school nurse (where applicable) and treating clinicians. They specify the condition, daily care, what to do in an emergency, who is trained, and what equipment is needed. They are reviewed at least annually and after any significant change.

6. Administration of medication

The school administers medication only with written consent from a parent/carer and in line with prescribing instructions. Medication is stored securely (refrigerated where required), administered by trained named staff, and recorded in the medication log. Pupils may carry inhalers and adrenaline auto-injectors with parental consent and risk assessment.

7. Emergency medication

The school holds emergency salbutamol inhalers and adrenaline auto-injectors in line with DfE guidance, accessible to trained staff. Staff are trained to recognise and respond to anaphylaxis, severe asthma attacks, seizures and hypoglycaemia.

8. Trips and off-site activities

Pupils with medical conditions are included in trips. The visit risk assessment incorporates the IHCP, includes named trained staff, ensures all medication and equipment travel with the group, and identifies the nearest emergency facility.

9. Training

Staff training is matched to the conditions of pupils on roll and refreshed when staff or pupils change. Specialist training (e.g. epilepsy buccal midazolam administration, blood-glucose monitoring) is provided by registered clinicians.

10. Roles and responsibilities

- Headteacher — ensures the policy is implemented and that adequate staff are trained.
- SENCO/medical lead — co-ordinates IHCPs and the medication register.
- All staff — aware of pupils' medical needs, follow IHCPs, summon trained help when needed.
- Parents/carers — provide accurate, up-to-date information and medication.
- Pupils — encouraged to participate in their own care to age- and ability-appropriate level.

Monitoring and review

This policy is reviewed annually by the Headteacher in consultation with the senior leadership team and the Directors of The New Walk School Ltd. It will be reviewed earlier where there is a material change in legislation, statutory guidance or the operational needs of the school. The most recent version is held on the school's policy register and is made available to parents, carers and staff on request.

Linked policies and documents

This policy should be read alongside the school's wider policy suite, including: Safeguarding and Child Protection; SEND; Behaviour and Relationships; Anti-Bullying; Equality, Diversity and Inclusion; Health and Safety; Curriculum; and Complaints.