

## Medical conditions policy: guidance for schools in England

All schools should have a medical conditions policy, that is regularly reviewed and readily accessible to staff and parents.

An effective policy should:

- Enable your school to make sure that all children and young people with epilepsy are able to fully participate in school life
- Ensure that they have the same opportunities to achieve their full potential as their peers
- Ensure that staff understand epilepsy, and are able to support pupils with the condition

Epilepsy Action believes that all schools should have a section about epilepsy in their medical conditions policy that includes the following principles:

- This school recognises that epilepsy is a common condition and welcomes all students with epilepsy. This school does not discriminate against any children or young people with the condition.
- This school believes that every child with epilepsy has the right to participate fully in school life, including outdoor activities and residential trips.
- This school will support young adults with epilepsy, their families and carers to prepare for adulthood. This includes working with agencies and third parties to develop relevant plans.
- This school keeps a record of all the medical details of children and young adults with epilepsy. It keeps parents updated with any issues it feels may affect their child.
- This school ensures that all children, young people and staff in the school understand that epilepsy is a varied and individualised condition.
- This school ensures that all children and young adults with epilepsy are treated as individuals, and that their needs are addressed appropriately.
- This school ensures that all staff fully understand epilepsy and seizure first aid, and if necessary that there is at least one member of staff trained to administer emergency medicines in school at all times.
- This school will work with children and young people with epilepsy, their families, carers and health professionals to develop an appropriate emergency plan. This plan will be included in their IHP.

- This school will work together with, children and young people with epilepsy, parents /carers, staff, governors, educational psychologists and health professionals to ensure this policy is successfully implemented and maintained.
- This school will work together with children and young people with epilepsy, their families, the local authority and other agencies when required to by the Children and Families Act and The Care Act. Specific examples include:
  - The integration of services across education, health and care
  - Any requests made as part of a Child's Need Assessment (CNA) [*the local authority has responsibility for conducting CNAs as appropriate*]
  - When providing support to parents and carers
  - When an EHC is in place to meet Special Educational Needs

*Updated October 2014*