

## **CITY OF LONDON SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**

### **SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH LONG TERM AND/OR SERIOUS MEDICAL CONDITIONS IN SCHOOL POLICY**

This policy was approved by the Board of Governors in June 2013, was updated in June 2014 and will go back to the board for approval in October 2014. To be next reviewed by June 2017.

#### **1. The School's Aims**

- 1.1 The school will always endeavour to accommodate students who develop long term and/or serious medical conditions in school, making every reasonable effort to enable them to carry on with their education with the minimum disruption.
- 1.2 The underlying principle of the school's approach will be that of "reasonable adjustment". We will always make our best endeavours to be as inclusive as possible.

#### **2. The Role of the School Nurse**

- 2.1 In order to support the student who is unwell in the best way, the school will need to be informed fully and directly of all advice given by the medical team and other professionals involved in the student's treatment.
- 2.2 This will entail a member of the team communicating directly with our School Nurse in accordance with the normal standards of medical confidentiality applying, and the School Nurse advising staff on a "need to know" basis.
- 2.3 The school will be unable to support a student suffering from a serious or long term condition without this channel of communication being established.
- 2.4 The School Nurse, in collaboration with the SEND team if appropriate, will draft an individual care plan for all students with long term and/or serious medical needs. The student herself and her parents will always be fully involved in the formulation of this plan and the medical team treating the student will be consulted.

- 2.5 The details of the plan will be confidential, but will be shared with staff as necessary in order to promote the safety, well-being and education of the child concerned.
- 2.6 As the only qualified medical professional on site, the school nurse will normally administer any medication which the child may need to take, either as part of their daily routine in school or in an emergency
- 2.7 Older students may where appropriate administer their own medication, in accordance with the guidelines set out in the school nurse guide lines and protocols in the School's Health and Safety Policy.
- 2.8 Under certain circumstances, with agreement of all parties, some other members of staff may be specially trained to administer medication to pupils, for example by receiving training in the emergency use of epipens. It should be stressed that any such training would be entirely separate from the general First Aid training that some members of staff receive.
- 2.9 In these instances, the child's medical team and relevant City of London officers, including those in the legal, insurance and HR departments will always be consulted and a separate full risk assessment will be made.
- 2.10 **CONFIDENTIALITY AND THE WORK OF THE SCHOOL NURSE:**  
As a qualified medical professional the school nurse operates at a level of confidentiality informed by the legal principles of Gillick Competence and the Fraser Guidelines. These concepts arise from the judgements in the case of Gillick v West Norfolk and Wisbech Area Health Authority and another (1985). In summary, key principles are:  
If the health-care professional cannot persuade the young person to inform her parents or to allow the health-care professional to inform her parents that she is seeking advice or treatment, it can be provided to a child under 16 without parental consent or knowledge provided that the health-care professional is satisfied the young person has the emotional and intellectual maturity to understand the proposed treatment and its implications. Although the Gillick case was concerned with contraceptive advice and treatment for girls under 16, the principle that a child under 16 can consent to treatment on their own behalf has been extended to treatment and advice other than for contraception.

### **3. Parental Communications with the School**

- 3.1 Any matters of a confidential medical nature should be communicated to the School Nurse.
- 3.2 Matters of a more general pastoral nature or concerning academic issues should be communicated to the student's Form Tutor in the first instance. The Form Tutor will if necessary refer matters to a relevant Head of Department, Assistant Head of Section, Head of Section or another member of the School's Senior Management Team.
- 3.3 Staff will always be willing to provide assistance and information as quickly and fully as possible.

### **4. Participation in Co-curricular Activities including Sports, PE and Educational Visits**

- 4.1 The school will require detailed advice from the team treating the student about the desirable level of their participation in co-curricular activities especially those involving physical activity and visits off the school site.
- 4.2 As well as taking the advice of the medical team or other professionals into account, the school will also consider the effect of the student's participation on other students and whether or not their involvement will require additional staff or other resources.
- 4.3 Additional risk assessments will be made as necessary in respect of children with serious and/or long term medical conditions participating in co-curricular activities and educational visits, especially those that involve strenuous or adventurous activities or overnight stays away from home.

### **5. Academic Programme**

- 5.1 It may be necessary to adjust the academic programme of students who are affected by long term and/or serious medical conditions, so that they are not subjected to unnecessary strain and so that their chances of achieving success are maximised. Students may be referred to the SEND Department for support and advice.

- 5.2 This might entail the student taking fewer than the normal number of subjects for her year group or key stage, including taking fewer public examinations.
- 5.3 The advice of relevant medical and other professionals will be an important consideration in making decisions about a student's academic programme. The wishes and opinions of the student herself and of her parents will also be central.

### **References**

- Parental Terms and Conditions
- The School and City of London Equal Opportunities Statements
- The School Health and Safety Policy
- The School SEND Policy
- The School Accessibility Plan
- School Nurse Guide Lines and Protocols
- The School Policy on Discipline, Pastoral Care and Exclusions the DFE April 2014 Keeping Children Safe in Education document
- The School Educational Visits Policy
- The School's Policies on the Curriculum and Assessment