## Evergreen Primary schools

## Supporting Children with Medical Conditions

## COVID-19 Addendum

**23rd June 2020**

**Introduction**

The health and safety of all our children and staff is our utmost priority. Government and scientific guidance during this COVID-19 Pandemic has specified that there are two levels of high risk groups

* + high risk (clinically extremely vulnerable)
  + moderate risk (clinically vulnerable)

Adults and children and young people are more susceptible to the COVID-19 disease and therefore at greater risk of becoming extremely ill and/or dying if their health conditions are categorised in these two groups and **should not** be attending school.

Parent/carers of children and young people that fall into these two groups will be strongly advised to keep their children at home and we will continue to provide remote learning and emotional support.

Children and young people who do not fit into either vulnerable groups but have a physical or mental health condition will need a risk assessment completed if their parent/carer shows a preference for their child to return to school. If after conducting the risk assessment it is decided that a child or young person cannot return to school, we will discuss this with the parents/carers and if necessary require additional advice from health professionals in order that we can safeguard the child from possible infection and that they continue to be provided with remote learning and emotional support.

**Parent/Carers are responsible for:**

* ensuring school is informed if a child or young person has been diagnosed with a medical condition, whether or not they are attending school during the COVID-19 Pandemic.
* If symptoms of COVID-19 are suspected, we will ask that you follow the Home School Agreement and adhere to it.

We recognise that children or young people with long term physical or mental health issues may have stronger reactions to the COVID-19 Pandemic. They might experience more intense distress, worry or anger more easily than children and young people without

these issues because they are more vulnerable to being infected with the disease or find it harder to deal with the risk and fears around it. We will support these children and their families with appropriate members of staff who will make contact remotely and will sign- post or refer to relevant organisations, if required.

## Medicine in school

We will continue to administer medication for children diagnosed with medical conditions such as asthma, epilepsy, allergies and anaphylactic shock and will need to complete the administering of medication agreement form and will provide staff with PPE when needed.

Children should not attend school if they are taking antibiotics or steroids, as their resilience will be lowered due to infection or medication.

Do not send your child to school if they are unwell or their medical condition has deteriorated. Source medical advice first to whether or not your child should remain at home until they have improved. When we are notified of this we will carry out another (a new) risk assessment before the child or young person can return to school. (Appendix 1b individual child RA)

## Children taken ill at school

If a child is taken ill at school, we will isolate them with a member of staff who will stay with them until their parent/carer or named person arrives. Staff that care for children who are taken ill will wear Personal Protection Equipment comprising of an apron, gloves, mask and goggles.

## Calling an ambulance and notifying parent carers

The school will call an ambulance before contacting parents if a child becomes seriously ill or has a significant injury. We must safeguard our staff to exposure of COVID-19 and will want to eliminate travel and being asked to attend hospitals as much as possible.

Therefore, it is imperative that contact numbers are up to date and that parents/carers have a named person who will be close to the vicinity of the school, in order to travel with the child to hospital if required. If the named person does not arrive before the ambulance takes the child/young person to the hospital a member of staff will travel to the hospital in their own vehicle, so that they can travel back. They will be provided with PPE and stay with the child at the hospital until the parent/carer or named person arrives.

## Inclusion

During this period, we will need to change what we do as a school inclusively.

The school will ensure that children with medical conditions can participate in the new ways of working as long as social distancing rules can be applied and that it is not detrimental to the child’s physical or mental wellbeing.

## Health Professionals

We will continue to liaise with other professionals either via phone, email or video links and that all the needs of the child or young persons or young person’s, health, social, education and emotional are being addressed.

## Monitoring and review

This addendum will be reviewed by the proprietor every 3 weeks or in light of new government guidance as and when it is published.