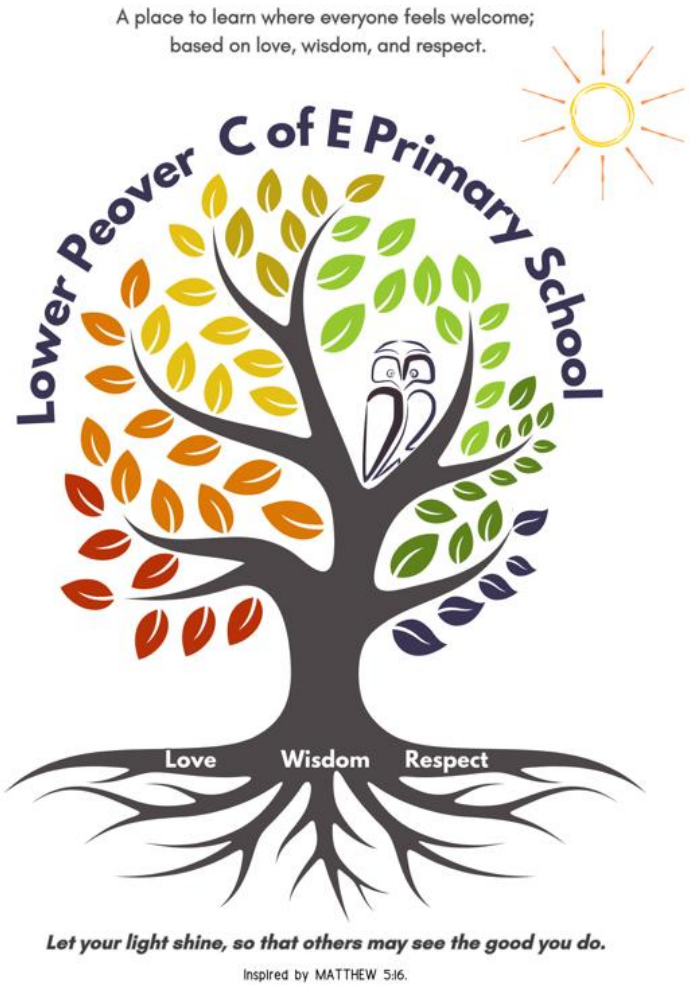

Administering Medication Policy

Review Date:	**September 2027**

Statement of intent

Lower Peover CofE Primary School will ensure that pupils with medical conditions receive appropriate care and support at school, in order for them to have full access to education and remain healthy. This includes the safe storage and administration of pupils' medication.

The school is committed to ensuring that parents feel confident that we will provide effective support for their child's medical condition, and make the pupil feel safe whilst at school.

For the purposes of this policy, **"medication"** is defined as any prescribed medicine, including devices such as asthma inhalers and adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs). **"Prescription medication"** is defined as any drug or device prescribed by a doctor. **"Controlled drug"** is defined as a drug around which there are strict legal controls due to the risk of dependence or addiction, e.g. morphine.

Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Equality Act 2010
- Children and Families Act 2014
- DfE (2015) 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions'
- DfE (2017) 'Using emergency adrenaline auto-injectors in schools'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Children with Health Needs (who cannot attend school) Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Allergen and Anaphylaxis Policy
- Complaints Procedures Policy

Roles and responsibilities

The governing board is responsible for:

- The implementation of this policy and procedures.
- Ensuring that this policy, as written, does not discriminate on any grounds, including the protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010.
- Ensuring that members of staff who administer medication to pupils, or help pupils self-administer, are suitably trained, and have access to information needed.
- Ensuring that relevant health and social care professionals are consulted in order to guarantee that pupils taking medication are properly supported.
- Managing any complaints or concerns regarding this policy, the support provided to pupils, or the administration of medication in line with the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

The headteacher is responsible for:

- The day-to-day implementation and management of this policy and relevant procedures.
- Ensuring that appropriate training is undertaken by staff members administering medication.
- Ensuring that staff members understand the local emergency services' cover arrangements and that the correct information is provided for the navigation system.
- Organising another appropriately trained individual to take over the role of administering medication in case of staff absence.
- Ensuring that all necessary risk assessments are carried out regarding the administration of medication, including for school trips and external activities.

All staff are responsible for:

- Adhering to this policy and supporting pupils to do so.
- Carrying out their duties that arise from this policy fairly and consistently.

Parents are responsible for:

- Keeping the school informed about any changes to their child's health.
- Completing an administering medication parental consent form when medication is brought into school by parents.
- Discussing medication with their child prior to requesting that a staff member administers the medication.

It is both staff members' and pupils' responsibility to understand what action to take during a medical emergency, including raising the alarm with a member of staff.

Training staff

The headteacher will ensure that staff are suitably trained in administering prescribed medication. Staff will undergo basic training on the administering of medication to ensure that, if exceptional circumstances arise where there is no designated administrator of medication available, pupils can still receive their medication from a trained member of staff. The headteacher will also ensure that staff have been trained in administering medication in an emergency by a healthcare professional.

Staff will be advised not to agree to taking on the responsibility of administering medication until they have received appropriate training and can make an informed choice. The school will ensure that, as part of their training, staff members are informed that they cannot be required to administer medication to pupils, and that this is entirely voluntary, unless the supporting of pupils with medical conditions is central to their role within the school, e.g. the school nurse.

Training will also cover the appropriate procedures and courses of action with regard to the following exceptional situations:

- The timing of the medication's administration is crucial to the health of the child
- Some technical or medical knowledge is required to administer the medication
- Intimate contact with the pupil is necessary

Staff members will be made aware that if they administer medication to a pupil, they take on a legal responsibility to do so correctly; therefore, staff will be encouraged not to administer medication in the above situations if they do not feel comfortable and confident in doing so, even if they have received training.

Training for administering AAIs

Staff members with confidence in their ability to use AAIs will be appointed to administer this medication. As part of their training, staff members will be made aware of:

- How to recognise the signs and symptoms of severe allergic reactions and anaphylaxis.
- Where to find AAIs in the case of an emergency.
- How the dosage correlates with the age of the pupil.
- How to respond appropriately to a request for help from another member of staff.
- How to recognise when emergency action is necessary.
- Who the designated staff members for administering AAIs are.
- How to administer an AAI safely and effectively in the event that there is a delay in response from the designated staff members.
- How to make appropriate records of allergic reactions.

Receiving, storing, and disposing of medication

Receiving prescribed medication from parents

The parents of pupils who need medication administered at school will be sent an administering medication parental consent form to complete and sign; the signed consent form will be returned to the school and appropriately filed before staff can administer medication to pupils.

A signed copy of the parental consent form will be kept with the pupil's medication, and no medication will be administered if this consent form is not present.

The school will only store and administer prescribed medication. The school will store a reasonable quantity of medication, e.g. a maximum of four weeks' supply at any one time. Aspirin will not be administered unless the school has evidence that it has been prescribed by a doctor.

Parents should keep all medication, provided to the school, in the original prescribed packaging, complete with instructions.

Storing pupils' medication

The school will ensure that all medications are kept appropriately, according to the product instructions, and are securely stored. Medication that may be required in emergency circumstances, e.g. asthma inhalers and AAIs, will be stored in a way that allows it to be readily accessible to pupils who may need it and can self-administer, and staff members who will need to administer them in emergency situations.

All other medication will be stored in a place inaccessible to pupils. Inhalers will be kept in the relevant year groups' medical box, in the classroom storeroom, AAI will be located in the staff room.

The school will ensure that pupils know where their medication is stored.

Medication stored in the school will be:

- Kept in the original container alongside the instructions for use.
- Clearly labelled with:
    - The pupil's name.
    - The name of the medication.
    - The correct dosage.
    - The frequency of administration.
    - Any likely side effects.
    - The expiry dates.
- Stored alongside the accompanying administering medication parental consent form.

Prescribed medication that does not meet the above criteria will not be administered.

Disposing of pupils' medication

The school will not store surplus or out-of-date medication. Where medication and/or its containers need to be returned to the pupils' doctor or pharmacist, parents will be asked to collect these for this purpose.
Needles and other sharps will be disposed of safely and securely, e.g. using a sharps disposal box.

Administering Prescribed Medication

Prescribed medication will only be administered at school if it would be detrimental to the pupil not to do so. Only suitably qualified members of staff will administer controlled drugs. Staff will check the expiry date and maximum dosage of the medication being administered to the pupil each time it is administered, as well as when the previous dose was taken.

Medication will be administered in a private, comfortable environment and as far as possible, in the same room as the medication is stored; this will normally be the main office.

Arrangements for increased privacy where intimate contact is necessary

- Facilities to enable staff members to wash their hands before and after administering medication, and to clean any equipment before and after use if necessary
- Available PPE for use where necessary

Before administering medication, the responsible member of staff should check:

- The pupil's identity.
- That the school possesses written consent from a parent.
- That the medication name, dosage, and instructions for use match the details on the consent form.
- That the name on the medication label is the name of the pupil being given the medication.
- That the medication to be given is within its expiry date.

- That the pupil has not already been given the medication within the accepted frequency of dosage.

If there are any concerns surrounding giving medication to a pupil, the medication will not be administered and the school will consult with the pupil's parent or a healthcare professional, documenting any action taken.
If a pupil cannot receive medication in the method supplied, e.g. a capsule cannot be swallowed, written instructions on how to administer the medication must be provided by the pupil's parent, following advice from a healthcare professional.

Where appropriate, pupils will be encouraged to self-administer under the supervision of a staff member, provided that parental consent for this has been obtained. If a pupil refuses to take their medication, staff will not force them to do so, but will follow the procedure agreed upon in their IHPs, and parents will be informed so that alternative options can be considered.

The school will not be held responsible for any side effects that occur when medication is taken correctly.
Written records will be kept of all medication administered to pupils, including the date and time that medication was administered and the name of the staff member responsible. Records will be stored in accordance with the Records Management Policy.

Medical Devices

Asthma Inhalers

The school will ensure each pupils inhaler is stored within the classroom storeroom, for ease of access if required. All staff are aware that each class has its own medicine box held in the classroom storeroom. A spare inhaler is kept in the main office, in case the original is misplaced, unavailable or not working.

AAIs

A child's AAIs is stored in an easily accessible and designated space in the staff room. Children with an AAI are informed of the location of their AAI when it is first brought to school. All staff are aware of this central location.

Medical authorisation and parental consent will be obtained from all pupils believed to be at risk of anaphylaxis for the use of spare AAIs in emergency situations.

Pupils' and spare AAIs will be obtained, stored, and administered in line with the school's Allergen and Anaphylaxis Policy.

IHPs

For pupils with chronic or long-term conditions and disabilities, an IHP will be developed in liaison with the pupil, their parent, the Headteacher, the SENDCO and any relevant medical professionals. When deciding what information should be recorded on an IHP, the following will be considered:

- The medical condition and its triggers, signs, symptoms, and treatments
- The pupil's resulting needs, such as medication, including the correct dosage and possible side effects, medical equipment, and dietary requirements
- The specific support needed for the pupil's educational, social, and emotional needs
- The level of support needed and whether the pupil will be able to take responsibility for their own health needs
- The type of provision and training that is required, including whether staff can be expected to fulfil the support necessary as part of their role
- Which staff members need to be aware of the pupil's condition
- Arrangements for receiving parental consent to administer medication
- Separate arrangements which may be required for out-of-school trips and external activities
- Which staff member can fulfil the role of being a designated, entrusted individual to whom confidentiality issues are raised
- What to do in an emergency, including whom to contact and contingency arrangements
- What is defined as an emergency, including the signs and symptoms that staff members should look out for

Educational trips and visits

In the event of educational trips and visits which involve leaving the school premises, medication and medical devices will continue to be readily available to staff and pupils. This may include pupils carrying their medication themselves, where possible and appropriate, e.g. for asthma inhalers.

If the medication is of a type that should not be carried by pupils, e.g. capsules, or if pupils are very young or have complex needs that mean they cannot self-administer, the medication will be carried by a designated staff member for the duration of the trip or activity.

There will be at least one staff member who is trained to administer medication on every out-of-school trip or visit which pupils with medical conditions will attend. Staff members will ensure that they are aware of any pupils who will need medication administered during the trip or visit, and will ensure that they know the correct procedure, e.g. timing and dosage, for administering their medication.

If the out-of-school trip or visit will be over an extended period of time, e.g. an overnight stay, a record will be kept of the frequency at which pupils need to take their medication, and any other information that may be relevant. This record will be kept by a designated trained staff member who is present on the trip and can manage the administration of medication.

All staff members, volunteers and other adults present on out-of-school trips and visits will be made aware of the actions to take in a medical emergency related to the specific medical needs and conditions of the pupil, e.g. what to do if an epileptic pupil has a seizure.

Medical emergencies

Medical emergencies will be handled in line with the First Aid Policy.

For all emergency medication stored by the school, the school will ensure it is readily accessible to staff and the pupil who requires it and is not locked away.