



Supporting Pupils with Medical Needs Policy

Status	Current Policy
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Published	
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Review Cycle	Every Three Years
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Next Review	September 2023
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Lead Staff	Head of Care/Principal DSL
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Lead Governor	Safeguarding Governor
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Chair of Governing Body	Diarmuid Molloy
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Headteacher	Paula Miller
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Mission Statement

We accept all students **as they are** and believe that every one of them is **entitled** to the very **best education**, delivered in an **environment** that is **supportive, caring** and **safe**.

Our goal is to develop our students to become:

- **Successful** Learners.
- As **independent** as possible.
- **Confident** individuals and self-advocates.
- **Effective** communicators and **contributors**.
- **Responsible** citizens.

We will do this by working to **ensure we get every aspect of their provision just right**, helping them to achieve academically, personally, socially and morally.

Rights Respecting Schools

The Unicef UK Rights Respecting School Award (RRSA) is based on principles of equality, dignity, respect, non-discrimination and participation. The RRSA seeks to put the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child at the heart of a school's ethos and culture to improve well-being and develop every child's talents and abilities to their full potential. A Rights Respecting School is a community where children's rights are learned, taught, practised, respected, protected and promoted.

Stone Bay has achieved the Bronze Award: Rights Committed

This policy is written with reference to:

Article 23 (children with a disability) A child with a disability has the right to live a full and decent life with dignity and, as far as possible, independence and to play an active part in the community

Article 24 (health and health services) Every child has the right to the best possible health

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Definitions of Medical Conditions.

Students' medical needs may be broadly summarised as being of two types: -

- **Short-term** affecting their participation at school because they are on a course of medication.
- **Long-term** potentially limiting access to education and requiring on-going support, medicines or care while at school to help them to manage their condition and keep them well, including monitoring and intervention in emergency circumstances.

It is important that parents feel confident that the school will provide effective support for their child's medical condition and that student's feel safe.

Some children with medical conditions may be considered disabled. Where this is the case governing bodies **must** comply with their duties under the Equality Act 2010. Some may also have special educational needs (SEN) and may have a statement or Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Where this is the case this policy should be read in conjunction with the 0-25 SEND Code of Practice and the school's SEN policy / SEN Information Report and the individual healthcare plan will become part of the EHCP.

The statutory duty of the governing body

The governing body remains legally responsible and accountable for fulfilling their statutory duty for supporting students at school with medical conditions. Our governing body fulfil this by:

- Ensuring that arrangements are in place to support students with medical conditions. In doing so we will ensure that such children can access and enjoy the same opportunities at school as any other child;
- Considering that many medical conditions that require support at school will affect quality of life and may be life-threatening. Some will be more obvious than others and therefore the focus is on the needs of each individual child and how their medical condition impacts on their school life;
- Ensuring that the arrangements give parents and students confidence in the school's ability to provide effective support for medical conditions, should show an understanding of how medical conditions impact on a child's ability to learn, as well as increase their confidence and promote self-care. We will ensure that staff are properly trained to provide the support that students need;
- Ensuring that no child with a medical condition is denied admission, or prevented from taking up a place in school because arrangements for their medical condition have not been made. However, in line with safeguarding duties, we will ensure that students' health is not put at

unnecessary risk from, for example, infectious diseases, and reserve the right to refuse admittance to a child at times where it would be detrimental to the health of that child or others to do so;

- Ensuring that the arrangements put in place are sufficient to meet our statutory duties and ensure that policies, plans, procedures and systems are properly and effectively implemented;
- Developing a policy for supporting students with medical conditions that is reviewed regularly and accessible to parents and school staff;
- Ensuring that this policy includes details on how the policy will be implemented effectively, including a named person who has overall responsibility for policy implementation;
- Ensuring that this policy sets out the procedures to be followed whenever the school is notified that a student has a medical condition;
- Ensuring that this policy covers the role of individual healthcare plans, and who is responsible for their development, in supporting students at school with medical conditions;
- Ensuring that this school policy clearly identifies the roles and responsibilities of all those involved in arrangements for supporting students at school with medical conditions and how they will be supported, how their training needs will be assessed and how and by whom training will be commissioned and provided;
- Ensuring that this school policy covers arrangements for children who are competent to manage their own health needs and medicines;
- Ensuring that this policy is clear about the procedures to be followed for managing medicines including the completion of written records;
- Ensuring that this policy sets out what should happen in an emergency situation;
- Ensuring that the arrangements are clear and unambiguous about the need to support actively students with medical conditions to participate in school trips and visits, or in sporting activities, and not prevent them from doing so;
- Considering whether to:
 - Develop transport healthcare plans in conjunction with the LA for students with life-threatening conditions who use home- to- school transport
 - Purchase and train staff in the use of defibrillators
 - Once regulations are changed consider holding asthma inhalers for emergency use;
- Ensuring that this policy is explicit about what practice is not acceptable;
- Ensuring that the appropriate level of insurance is in place and appropriate to the level of risk.

Policy implementation

The statutory duty for making arrangements for supporting students at school with medical conditions rests with the governing Body. The governing body have conferred the following functions of the implementation of this policy to the staff below, however, the governing body remains legally responsible and accountable for fulfilling our statutory duty.

The overall responsibility for the implementation of this policy is given to the Headteacher. He will also be responsible for ensuring that sufficient staff are suitably trained and will ensure cover arrangements in cases of staff absences or staff turnover to ensure that someone is always available and on-site with an appropriate level of training.

The Head of Care and relevant Assistant Headteachers will be responsible for briefing supply teachers, preparing risk assessments for school visits and other school activities outside of the normal timetable and for the monitoring of individual healthcare plans.

Head of Care, residential team Leaders and Assistant Headteachers will be responsible in conjunction with parents/carers, for drawing up, implementing and keeping under review the individual healthcare plan for each student and making sure relevant staff are aware of these plans

All members of staff are expected to show a commitment and awareness of children's medical conditions and the expectations of this policy. All new members of staff will be inducted into the arrangements and guidelines in this policy upon taking up their post.

Procedure to be followed when notification is received that a student has a medical condition

This covers notification prior to admission, procedures to cover transitional arrangements between schools or alternative providers, and the process to be followed upon reintegration after a period of absence or when students' needs change. For children being admitted to Stone Bay School for the first time with good notification given, the arrangements will be in place for the start of the relevant school term, this will be led and managed by the Deputy Headteacher. In other cases, such as a new diagnosis or a child moving to Stone Bay School mid-term, we will make every effort to ensure that arrangements are put in place within two weeks.

In making the arrangements, we will take into account that many of the medical conditions that require support at school will affect quality of life and may be life-threatening. We also acknowledge that some may be more obvious than others. We will therefore ensure that the focus is on the needs of each individual child and how their medical condition impacts on their school life. We aim to ensure that parents/carers and students can have confidence in our ability to provide effective support for medical conditions in school, so the arrangements will show an understanding of how medical conditions impact on the child's ability to learn, as well as increase their confidence and promote self-care.

We will ensure that staff are properly trained and supervised to support students' medical conditions and will be clear and unambiguous about the need to support actively students with medical conditions to participate in school trips and visits, or in sporting activities, and not prevent them in doing so. We will make arrangements for the inclusion of students in such activities with any adjustments as required unless evidence from a clinician such as a GP states that this is not possible. We will make sure that no child with a medical condition is denied admission or prevented from attending the school because arrangements for supporting their medical condition have not been made. However, in line with our safeguarding duties, we will ensure that all students' health is not put at unnecessary risk from, for example infectious disease. We will therefore not accept a child in school at times where it would be detrimental to the health of that child or others.

Stone Bay School does not have to wait for a formal diagnosis before providing support to students. In cases where a student's medical condition is unclear, or where there is a difference of opinion, judgements will be needed about what support to provide based on available evidence and clinical advice. This would normally involve some form of medical evidence and consultation with parents/carers. Where evidence conflicts, some degree of challenge may be necessary to ensure that the right support can be put in place. These discussions will be led by Head of Care or assistant Headteacher, and following these discussions an individual healthcare plan will be written in conjunction with the parent/carers by the relevant member of staff, and be put in place.

Individual healthcare plans

Individual healthcare plans will help to ensure that Stone Bay School effectively supports students with medical conditions. They will provide clarity about what needs to be done, when and by whom. They will often be essential, such as in cases where conditions fluctuate or where there is a high risk that emergency intervention will be needed. They are likely to be helpful in the majority of other cases too, especially where medical conditions are long-term and complex. However, not all children will require one. The school, healthcare professional and parent/carer should agree, based on evidence, when a healthcare plan would be inappropriate or disproportionate. If consensus cannot be reached the Headteacher, is best placed to take a final view. A flow chart for identifying and agreeing the support a child needs and developing an individual healthcare plan is provided at [appendix 1](#).

Individual healthcare plans will be easily accessible to all who need to refer to them, while preserving confidentiality. Plans will capture the key information and actions that are required to support the child effectively. The level of detail within the plan will depend on the complexity of the child's condition and the degree of support needed. This is important because different children with the same health condition may require very different support.

Individual healthcare plans (and their review) should be drawn up in partnership between the school, parents/carers and a relevant healthcare professional e.g. school, specialist or children's community nurse, who can best advise on the particular needs of the child. Students should also be involved whenever appropriate. The aim should be to capture the steps which Stone Bay School should take to help manage their condition and overcome any potential barriers to getting the most from their education. Partners will be involved but responsibility for ensuring it is finalised and implemented rests with the school. The health care plan will be printed and signed by parents, when updated the new version must be printed and parents must sign.

Stone Bay School will ensure that individual healthcare plans are reviewed at least annually or earlier if evidence is presented that the child's needs have changed. They will be developed and reviewed with the child's best interests in mind and ensure that Stone Bay School assesses and manages risks to the child's education, health and social wellbeing, and minimises disruption. Where a child is returning to school following a period of hospital education, we will work with the local authority and education provider to ensure that the individual healthcare plan identifies the support the child will need to reintegrate effectively. Our Health Care Plan template is attached: [Appendix 2](#).

Roles and responsibilities

In addition, we can refer to the **Community Nursing Team** for support with drawing up Individual Healthcare Plans, provide or commission specialist medical training, liaison with lead clinicians and advice or support in relation to students with medical conditions.

Other **healthcare professionals, including GPs and paediatricians** should notify the Community Nursing Team when a child has been identified as having a medical condition that will require support at school. Specialist local health teams may be able to provide support, and training to staff, for children with particular conditions.

When **Students** with medical conditions have the capacity to provide information about how their condition affects them. They should be fully involved in discussions about their medical support needs and contribute as much as possible to the development of, and comply with, their individual healthcare plan. Other students will often be sensitive to the needs of those with medical conditions, and can, for example, alert staff to the deteriorating condition or emergency need of students with medical conditions.

Parents/carers should provide the school with sufficient and up-to-date information about their child's medical needs. They may in some cases be the first to notify the school that their child has a medical condition. Parents are key partners and should be involved in the development and review of their child's individual healthcare plan, and may be involved in its drafting. They should carry out any action they have agreed to as part of its implementation.

Local authorities are commissioners of school nurses for maintained schools and academies in Kent. Under Section 10 of the Children Act 2004, they have a duty to promote co-operation between relevant partners such as governing bodies of maintained schools, proprietors of academies, clinical commissioning groups and NHS England, with a view to improving the well-being of children with regard to their physical and mental health, and their education, training and recreation. KCC is currently consulting on the re-organisation of its Health Needs provision which will strengthen its ability to provide support, advice and guidance, including suitable training for school staff, to ensure that the support specified within individual healthcare plans can be delivered effectively. KCC will work with us to support students with medical conditions to attend full time. Where students would not receive a suitable education in a mainstream school because of their health needs. The local authority has a duty to make other arrangements. Statutory guidance for local authorities sets out that they should be ready to make arrangements under this duty when it is clear that a child will be away from school for 15 days or more because of health needs (whether consecutive or cumulative across the year) [education for children with health needs who cannot attend school](#)

Providers of health services should co-operate with schools that are supporting children with medical conditions. They can provide valuable support, information, advice and guidance to schools, and their staff, to support children with medical conditions at school.

Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) commission other healthcare professionals such as specialist nurses. They have a reciprocal duty to co-operate under Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 (as described above for local authorities). The local Health and Well-being Board provides a forum for the local authority and CCGs to consider with other partners, including locally elected representatives, how to strengthen links between education, health and care settings.

Staff training and support

All staff who are required to provide support to students for medical conditions will be trained by professionals qualified to do so. The training need will be identified during the development or review of the individual healthcare plan. We may choose to arrange training ourselves and will ensure that it remains up-to-date.

Training should be sufficient to ensure that staff are competent and have confidence in their ability to support students with medical conditions, and to fulfil the requirements set out in the individual healthcare plans. They will need an understanding of the specific medical conditions they are being asked to deal with, their implications and preventative measures. Staff who have completed Care of Medicines Foundation and Safe Handling of Medicines Patient Pack Dispensing from Boots online training are the only staff who will be able to administer Controlled Drugs. Staff will have competency checks carried out throughout the year to ensure they follow the correct procedures when administering medication. Staff who have completed KSCMP Medication Awareness and Safe Handling of Medicines will **ONLY** be able to administer non-prescribed medication such as paracetamol. Two members of staff will be required to witness the dispensing of prescribed medication

Staff must not give prescription or non-prescribed medicines or undertake healthcare procedures without appropriate training (updated to reflect any individual healthcare plans). A first aid certificate does not constitute appropriate training in supporting children with medical conditions. Healthcare professionals, including a school nurse, can provide confirmation of proficiency of staff in a medical procedure, or in providing medication.

All staff will receive induction training and regular whole school awareness training so that all staff are aware of the school's policy for supporting students with medical conditions and their role in implementing the policy. The Headteacher, will seek advice from relevant healthcare professions about training needs, including preventative and emergency measures so that staff can recognise and act quickly when a problem occurs.

The family of a child will often be key in providing relevant information to school staff about how their child's needs can be met, and parents will be asked for their views. They should provide specific advice, but should not be the sole trainer.

The child's role in managing their own medical needs

If, after discussion with the parent/carer, it is agreed that the child is competent to manage his/her own medication and procedures, s/he will be encouraged to do so. This will be reflected in the individual healthcare plan.

Wherever possible children will be allowed to carry their own medicines and relevant devices or should be able to access their medication for self-medication quickly and easily; these will be stored in the cupboard in name which room to ensure that the safeguarding of other children is not compromised. Stone Bay School does also recognise that children who take their medicines themselves and/or manage procedures may require an appropriate level of supervision. If it is not appropriate for a child to self-manage, then relevant staff will help to administer medicines and manage procedures for them.

If a child refuses to take medicine or carry out a necessary procedure, staff should not force them to do so, but follow the procedure agreed in the individual healthcare plan. Parents will be informed so that alternative options can be considered.

Managing medicines on school premises and record keeping

At Stone Bay School the following procedures are to be followed:

- Medicines should only be administered at school when it would be detrimental to a child's health or school attendance not to do so;
- No child under 16 should be given prescription or non-prescription medicines without their parents written consent (see template B) - except in exceptional circumstances where the medicine has been prescribed to the child without the knowledge of the parents. In such cases, every effort should be made to encourage the child or young person to involve their parents while respecting their right to confidentiality;
- We seek authorisation from parents to administer a range of Non-prescribed medication. These medications are listed in our Health Care Plan [Appendix 2](#).
- Where clinically possible, medicines should be prescribed in dose frequencies which enable them to be taken outside school hours;
- Stone Bay School will only accept prescribed medicines, with written permission from parent/carer that are in-date, labelled, provided in the original container as dispensed by a pharmacist and include instructions for administration, dosage and storage. The exception to this is insulin which must be in-date, but will generally be available inside an insulin pen or a pump, rather than its original container;
- All medicines will be stored safely in the medication cabinets in their residential flat or in the medication cabinet in the Common Room. Children with capacity should know where their medicines are at all times and be able to access them immediately. Where relevant, they should know who holds the key to the storage facility.

- Medicines and devices such as asthma inhalers, blood glucose testing meters and adrenaline pens should be always readily available state where and not locked away. Asthma inhalers should be marked with the child's name.
- During school trips the first aid trained member of staff will carry all medical devices and medicines required (unless they are not medication trained).
- A child who had been prescribed a controlled drug may legally have it in their possession if they are competent to do so, but passing it to another child for use is an offence. Monitoring arrangements may be necessary. Otherwise we will keep all controlled drugs that have been prescribed for a student securely stored in a non-portable container and only named staff will have access. Controlled drugs should be easily accessible in an emergency. A record should be kept of any doses used and the amount of the controlled drug held in the school; These records will be kept in the controlled drugs record book, these can be located in the residential flats or PPA office.
- Staff administering medicines should do so in accordance with the prescriber's instructions. Stone Bay School will keep a record (MARR chart) of all medicines administered to individual children, stating what, how and how much was administered, when and by whom. Any side effects of the medication to be administered at school should be noted. Written records are kept of all medicines administered to children. These records offer protection to staff and children and provide evidence that agreed procedures have been followed;
- When no longer required, medicines should be returned to the parent/carer to arrange safe disposal. Sharps boxes should always be used for the disposal of needles and other sharps.
- All staff must self-report immediately to their manager if they become aware that they have made a medication error. If an error is picked up through our audit processes an investigation will be launched to clarify the provenance of the error. In all cases the medication error form must be complete and all concerned parties will be informed. Staff will seek reassurance through contact with clinicians when appropriate.
- Page 2 of the medical error form addresses issues of Child Protection, Safeguarding, Retraining and Additional Supervisions.
- All medication errors will be reported to the LADO.
- Stone Bay will be audited every year by Boots pharmacy as we have our medication delivered by Boots on a monthly cycle for students who are registered with the School GP.

Emergency procedures

The Headteacher will ensure that arrangements are in place for dealing with emergencies for all school activities wherever they take place, including school trips, as part of the general risk management process.

Where a child has an individual healthcare plan, this should clearly define what constitutes an emergency and explain what to do, including ensuring that all relevant staff are aware of emergency symptoms and procedures. Other students in the school should know what to do in general terms, such as informing a teacher immediately if they think help is needed.

If a child needs to be taken to hospital, staff should stay with the child until the parent arrives, or accompany a child taken to hospital by ambulance. Schools need to ensure they understand the local emergency services cover arrangements and that the correct information is provided for navigation systems.

Day trips, residential visits, and sporting activities

We will actively support students with medical conditions to participate in day trips and sporting activities by being flexible and making reasonable adjustments unless there is evidence from a clinician that this is not possible. Activity approval forms need to be completed before activities take place and a record of medication required for students will be made on the activity form.

We will always conduct a risk assessment so that planning arrangements take account of any steps needed to ensure that students with medical conditions can be included safely. This may involve consultation with parents\carers and relevant healthcare professions and will be informed by Health and Safety Executive (HSE) guidance on school trips.

Other issues for consideration

Where a student uses home-to-school transport arranged by the LA and they also have a medical condition which is life-threatening, we will share the student's individual healthcare plan with the local authority.

Our defibrillator is stored in the care office.

Unacceptable practice

Although staff at Stone Bay School should use their discretion and judge each case on its merit with reference to the child's individual healthcare plan, it is not generally acceptable practice to:

- Prevent children from easily accessing their inhalers and medication and administering their medication when and where necessary;
- Assume that every child with the same condition requires the same treatment
- Ignore the views of the child or their parents\carers; or ignore medical evidence or opinion (although this may be challenged)

- Send children with medical conditions home frequently or prevent them from staying for normal school activities, including lunch, unless this is specified in their individual healthcare plans
- If the child becomes ill, send them to the school office unaccompanied or with someone unsuitable;
- Penalise children for their attendance record if their absences are related to their medical condition;
- Prevent student from drinking, eating or taking toilet breaks whenever they need to in order to manage their medical condition effectively;
- Require parents\carers, or otherwise make them feel obliged, to attend school to administer medication or provide medical support to their child, including with toileting issues. No parent should have to give up working because the school is failing to support their child's medical needs; or
- Prevent children from participating, or creating unnecessary barriers to children participating in any aspect of school life, including school trips, e.g. by requiring parents to accompany the child.

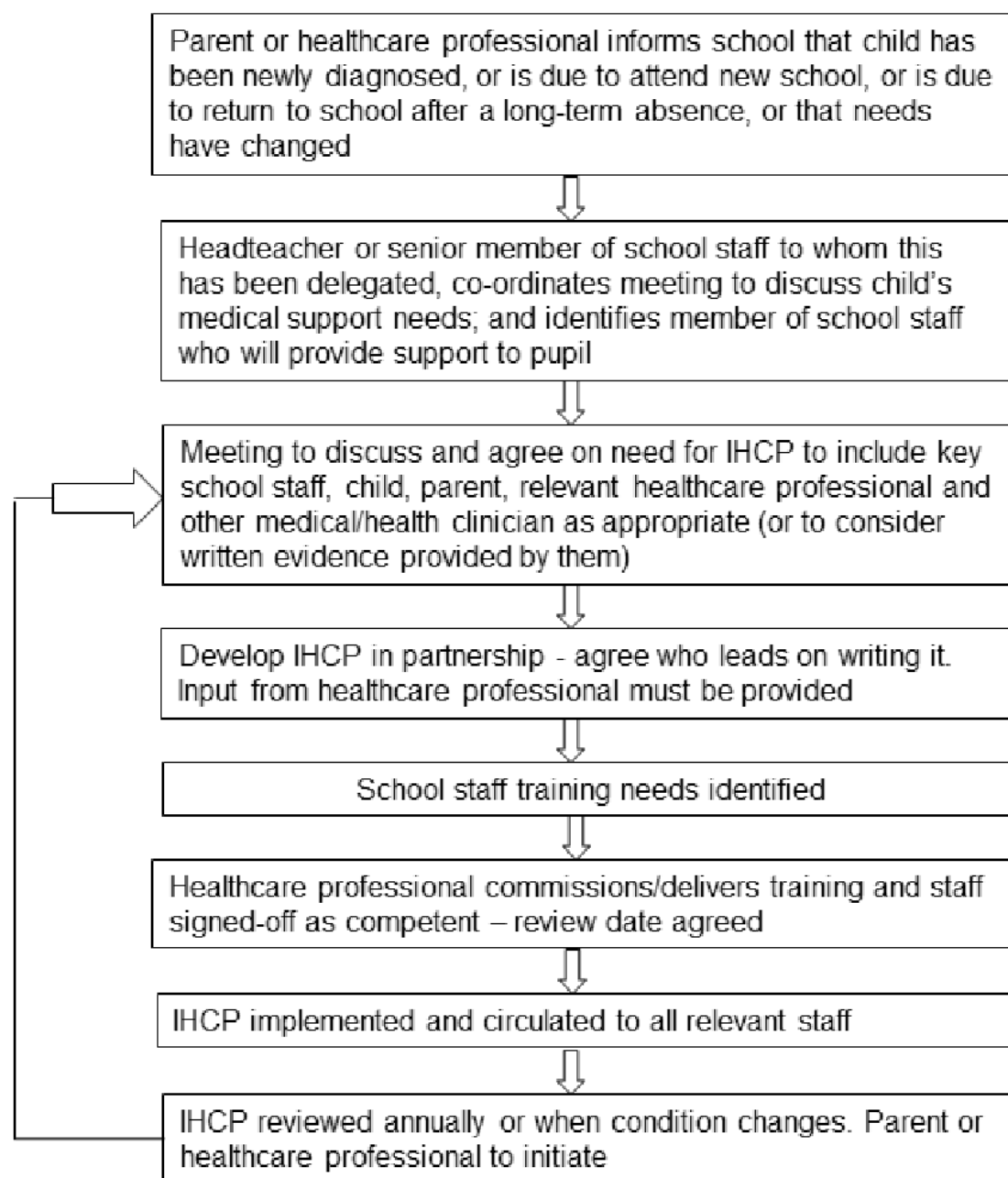
Liability and Indemnity Insurance.

Link to [insurance details](#).

Complaints

Complaints will be managed in line with our [C5 Complaints Procedure](#).

Appendix 1: Model process for developing individual healthcare plans



Appendix 2: SBS Health Care Plan.

[Link to Health Care Plan.](#)

Safeguarding, Equality and Equal Opportunities Statement

Stone Bay School will promote equality of opportunity for all students and staff from all social, cultural and economic backgrounds. The school will ensure that no student or staff member is disadvantaged, discriminated against or treated less favourably because of their gender (including gender reassignment), race, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation or due to pregnancy or maternity.

Stone Bay School aims to;

- Foster good relationships and create effective partnerships with all sections of the community
- Ensure that the school's service delivery, commissioning and employment practices will not discriminate unlawfully, either directly or indirectly
- Provide an environment free from fear and discrimination, where diversity, respect and dignity are valued and celebrated
- All aspects of Safeguarding will be embedded into school life and will remain the responsibility of all members of our school community.