DULWICH COLLEGE
FOUNDED 1619

**SICKLE CELL ANAEMIA POLICY**

Sickle cell anaemia disorder is an inherited blood condition. The main symptoms are pain and tiredness due to anaemia. The pain is usually in the hands, legs, lower back, head, tummy and joints. Patients can take prophylactic antibiotics permanently.

**Policy Statement**

Dulwich College recognises that sickle cell anaemia is a condition that can affect young people and welcomes pupils with the condition. It believes that every pupil with the condition has the right to participate in all areas of school life and makes all reasonable efforts to ensure this is possible. Furthermore, the College ensures that its staff receive necessary instruction so as to understand sickle cell anaemia and does not discriminate against pupils with the condition.

**Procedure**

The College, in partnership with the pupil and family and a specialist sickle cell anaemia nurse will draw up an Individual Health Care Plan to enable the pupil to realise their full educational and emotional potential. The plan shall be updated annually, and all details kept and processed in accordance with data protection legislative requirements. The following protocols are adhered to:

- **School Absence:** The College aims to provide a supportive framework to sickle cell anaemic pupils to enable them to keep up to date with schoolwork and life particularly where an absence requires a hospital admission or other prolonged absence.

- **Access to drinking water and toilets:** It is important for sickle cell anaemic pupils to avoid dehydration which may lead to illness. There is a ready supply of fresh drinking water available to pupils and usual restrictions shall not apply to them and they are allowed unrestricted access to the toilet.

- **Tiredness:** Sickle cell anaemic pupils may experience severe anaemia leading to tiredness, lethargy and an inability to concentrate. Facilities are available at the Medical Centre for those pupils to rest during the day as necessary.

- **Physical Exercise and Temperature**: Moderate exercise is encouraged for pupils with sickle cell anaemia. Pupils are familiarised with their safe limits and requests to stop due to tiredness or pain or due to over exposure to cold or wet weather are heeded. Outdoor activities necessitating exposure to cold or damp conditions are generally avoided, in particular, cross country running and strenuous outdoor games should be avoided in cold and wet weather. A pupil with sickle cell anaemia should only swim if the water is warm and care is needed to keep warm when leaving the water. Some pupils with the condition find they develop crises despite these precautions and should therefore avoid swimming. Pupils are allowed to dress warmly in school and are permitted to stay inside a break times in cold, wet or windy weather.

- **Infection:** Pupils with sickle cell anaemia are more susceptible to infection. The College ensures safe storage and dispensing of any antibiotic drugs prescribed for them.

---

| | |
|---|---|
| **Policy Owner:** | Deputy Master Co-curricular, Operations and Partnerships |
| **Last Reviewed:** | May 2026 |
| **Date of Next Review:** | 2027-28 (or earlier as required) |