

EMBARGOED UNTIL Monday 16th September 2024, 9am BST

New Type 1 Diabetes Training Platform for Schools Launched Today! Supporting the Safety and Educational Success of Pupils with Type 1 Diabetes

Today marks the launch of an innovative digital educational platform designed to prepare teachers and school staff with the knowledge and tools needed to support pupils with Type 1 diabetes.

This course will enhance the understanding of the impacts of Type 1 diabetes, both physically and mentally, on young people in schools and will also highlight the critical role that the use of diabetes technologies plays, including the importance of mobile phone accessibility, in managing the health of pupils with type 1 diabetes.

This unique new platform has been co-designed with specialist diabetes healthcare professionals, young people, teachers and parents. It is brought to you by DigiBete and Leeds Children's Hospital Diabetes Team, in collaboration with the National Children and Young Peoples Diabetes Network, JDRF UK (Breakthrough T1D) and the Together Type 1 team within Diabetes UK.

Type 1 diabetes is a complex, lifelong condition that requires careful monitoring and management, particularly in children. With more pupils relying on technology such as continuous glucose monitors (CGMs) and insulin pumps, it is essential for all school staff to be well-informed about these devices and their functions.

The new schools' platform addresses this need by offering comprehensive, easy-to-access training modules that cover a wide range of topics. These include:

- **Understanding Type 1 Diabetes:** An overview of the condition, its impact on children, and the day-to-day challenges and stigma they often face.
- **Diabetes Technology in Schools:** A detailed look at the various devices pupils might use, such as CGMs, insulin pumps, and smart pens, with explanations of how these tools help the children manage their condition.
- **The Importance of Mobile Phones:** Guidance on why it's crucial for pupils with Type 1 diabetes to have their mobile phones available at all times, including the role of apps that track glucose levels and deliver insulin doses.

"It gives me huge pleasure to introduce this new Diabetes Training Platform to support teachers, teaching assistants and all staff in schools to gain a better understanding of diabetes, how it is

managed and how a young person may be affected both physically and emotionally by all the additional decisions they need to make. We are all looking forward to this training having the biggest effect on young people's ability to feel safe and enable them to reach their full learning potential with the support of their individual school care plan, school staff and diabetes team".

Dr Fiona Campbell, OBE, National Children and Young Peoples Diabetes Network Chair and Digibete Clinical Advisor

This training programme is designed to be used by teachers, teaching assistants and anyone looking after someone with Type 1 diabetes e.g in school clubs and external clubs. The e-learning platform is simple to use with interactive elements, real-world scenarios, and quizzes ensuring that participants gain practical insights that can be immediately applied in their classrooms.

Did you know?

"Children living with type 1 diabetes miss an average of nine more sessions of school a year compared to children without the condition, a new study led by Cardiff University has found.

Published in the Journal for Diabetes Care, the research found that while many children with diabetes still perform well in their education both at age 16 and university participation, those facing struggles to manage their blood glucose levels achieved results that are five grades lower in GCSEs than children without. They are also less than half as likely to attend university as children without type 1 diabetes".¹

To sign up for the platform please visit www.diabetesinschools.org

For more information please email schools@digibete.org

1. Educational Attainment and Childhood-Onset Type 1 Diabetes, Diabetes Care 2022; 45: 2852–2861 | <https://doi.org/10.2337/dc21-0693>