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St. Patrick's S.N.S.
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Principal: Oisín McGinty
Deputy: Kim McGregor

Administration of Medicines

Aims of this Policy

The aims and objectives of the policy can be summarised as follows;

- Minimise health risks to children and staff on the school premises
- Fulfil the duty of the BoM in relation to Health and Safety requirements
- Provide a framework within which medicines may be administered in cases of emergency or in instances where regularised administration has been agreed with parents/guardians

In-School Procedures

Parents are required to complete a Health/Medication form when enrolling their child/ren in the school. Sheet to go into enrolment pack (Medical Condition and Administration of Medicines). No teacher is obliged to administer medicine or drugs to a pupil and any teacher willing to do so works under the controlled guidelines outlined below.

- Prescribed medicines will only be administered after parents of the pupil concerned have written to the BoM requesting the Board to authorise a member of the teaching staff to do so. Under no circumstance will non-prescribed medicines be either stored or administered in the school. The Board will seek indemnity from parents in respect of any liability arising from the administration of medicines
- The school generally advocates the self-administration (e.g. inhalers) of medicine under the supervision of a responsible adult, exercising the standard of care of a prudent parent. No medicines are stored on the school premises. A small quantity of prescription drugs will be stored in the Administration Office if a child requires self-administering on a daily basis and parents have requested storage facilities. Parents are responsible for the provision of medication and notification of change of dosage
- In the event of a teacher being absent the onus is on the individual splitting the class to inform the substitute/supervising/receiving teacher of any medical conditions or allergies of pupils.
- The Board of Management requests parents to ensure that teachers be made aware in writing of any medical condition suffered by any child in their class

Long Term Health Problems

Where there are children with long-term health problems in school, proper and clearly understood arrangements for the administration of medicines must be made with the Board of Management. This is the responsibility of the parents/guardians. It would include measures such as self administration, administration under parental supervision or administration by school staff.

Life Threatening Condition

Where children are suffering from life threatening conditions, parents/guardians must clearly outline, in writing, what should be done in a particular emergency situation, with particular reference to what may be a risk to the child (Appendix 3). If emergency medication is necessary, arrangements must be made with the Board of Management.

A letter of indemnity must be signed by the parents in respect of any liability that may arise regarding the administration of medication.

Guidelines for the Administration of Medicines

- The parents of the pupil with special medical needs must inform the Board of Management in writing of the condition, giving all the necessary details of the condition. The request must also contain written instruction of the procedure to be followed in administering the medication. (Appendix 1 recorded on students' profile via Aladdin).
- A record of the date and time of administration must be kept by the person administering it (Appendix 2 via Aladdin).
- Parents/Guardians are responsible for ensuring that emergency medication is supplied to the school and replenished when necessary
- Emergency medication must have exact details of how it is to be administered.
- Parents are further required to indemnify the Board of Management and members of the staff in respect of any liability that may arise regarding the administration of prescribed medicines in school

Medicines

- Non-prescribed medicines will neither be stored nor administered to pupils in school
- Teachers/SNAs in the school will only administer prescribed medication when arrangements have been put in place as outlined above
- Arrangements for the storage of certain emergency medicines, which must be readily accessible at all times, must be made with the Principal
- A teacher/SNA must not administer any medication without the specific authorisation of the Board of Management
- The prescribed medicine must be self-administered if possible, under the supervision of an authorised Teacher/SNA if not the parent
- No teacher/SNA can be required to administer medicine or drugs to a pupil
- In an emergency situation, qualified medical assistance will be secured at the earliest opportunity and the parents contacted
- It is not recommended that children keep medication in bags, coats, etc., parents are required to give a labelled inhaler to the class teacher/supervising adult at the start of a term for safe storage.
- Where possible, the parents should arrange for the administration of prescribed medicines outside of school hours.

The following guidelines are in place with regard to pupils with a Nut Allergy

- Where a child has a nut allergy, that class will be strictly prohibited from having nuts in the classroom
- Staff dealing with the pupil do not eat nuts or any item with nut trace
- Advise children not to offer or exchange foods, sweets, lunches etc.
- If going off-site, medication must be carried by supervising adult.

In the event the pupil comes in contact with peanuts

- Administer advised dosage of antihistamine immediately. It is important that the pupil be kept calm to allow him to breathe calmly as he will experience discomfort and sensation of his/her throat swelling. If possible (s)he needs to drink as much water as possible. These steps should allow him/her to recover fully.
- Only in the event of anaphylactic shock should the pen be administered. Pen is securely stored in Class teachers drawer clearly labelled. Before or immediately after Pen has been administered, an ambulance must be called.

Emergencies

Where medical treatment is required, and circumstances warrant immediate medical attention, designated staff members may take a child into Accident and Emergency (Windmill Surgery) without delay. Parents will be contacted simultaneously.

In addition, parents must ensure that teachers are made aware in writing of any medical condition which their child is suffering from. For example, children who are epileptics, diabetics etc. may have a seizure at any time and teachers must be made aware of symptoms in order to ensure that treatment may be given by appropriate persons.

Written details are required from the parents/guardians outlining the child's personal details, name of medication, prescribed dosage, whether the child is capable of self-administration and the circumstances under which the medication is to be given. Parents should also outline clearly proper procedures for children who require medication for life threatening conditions.

The school maintains an up to date register of contact details of all parents/guardians including emergency numbers. This is updated in September of each new school year.

Signed: Ellynn O'Sullivan

Chairperson of the Board of Management

Date: 19/9/23

Appendix 1
Medical Condition and Administration of Medicines

Child's Name: _____

Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Emergency Contacts

1) Name: _____ Phone: _____

2) Name: _____ Phone: _____

3) Name: _____ Phone: _____

4) Name: _____ Phone: _____

Child's Doctor: _____ Phone: _____

Medical Condition: _____

Prescription Details: _____

Storage details: _____

Dosage required: _____

Is the child to be responsible for taking the prescription him/herself?

What Action is required: _____

I/We request that the Board of Management authorise the taking of Prescription Medicine during the school day as it is absolutely necessary for the continued well being of my/our child. I/We understand that the school has no facilities for the safe storage of prescription medicines and that the prescribed amounts be brought in daily. I/We understand that we must inform the school/Teacher of any changes of medicine/dose in writing and that we must inform the Teacher each year of the prescription/medical condition. I/We understand that no school personnel have any medical training and we indemnify the Board from any liability that may arise from the administration of the medication.

Signed _____ Parent/Guardian

_____ Parent/Guardian

Date _____

NOTE: If a child suffers from an allergy or required administration of Medication parents are requested to complete Appendix 2/3

**Appendix 1 (Alternative)
Allergy Details**

Type of Allergy: _____

Reaction Level: _____

Medication: _____

Storage details: _____

Dosage required: _____

Administration Procedure (When, Why, How)

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Emergency Procedures

In the event of _____ displaying any symptoms of his medical difficulty, the following procedures should be followed.

Symptoms: _____

Procedure

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Appendix 2
Record of administration of Medicines

Pupil's Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Medical Condition: _____

Medication: _____

Dosage Administered:

Administration Details (When, Why, How)

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Dial 999/112 and call emergency services.
Contact Parents