

St Michael's CE Primary School : Administration of Medicines Policy

Introduction

Parents have the prime responsibility for ensuring a child's health and for deciding whether they are fit to attend school. Parents should also provide all necessary information about their child's medical needs to the school.

Staff Duties

School staff have no legal obligation to administer medicines to pupils nor supervise them while they take medicine, unless contracted to do so. Staff may volunteer to assist in the administration of medicines but must be given appropriate training and guidance.

As a school, we have a duty to plan how administering medicines can be accommodated in school and on educational visits to allow children who have medical needs to attend.

Process for the Administration of medicines in School – short term medical needs

Medicines should normally be administered at home and only taken into school when absolutely necessary (where it would be detrimental to the child's health if the medicine were not taken during the school day).

The school will only accept:

- Medicines prescribed by a medical practitioner
- Medicines that need to be administered in excess of 3 times per day
- Medicines in their original container
- Containers with labelling identifying the child by name and with original instructions for administration

The school will not accept or administer:

- Medicines that are to be administered 3 times per day (unless the child is attending after school club and will not return home immediately after 3.30pm, or attending a residential visit)
- Piriton or similar
- Paracetamol eg Calpol or similar
- Throat lozenges

On accepting medication

- The named member of staff must sign the medicine in. (Appendix J)
- The parent must sign a form disclosing all details including name of medicine and dosage to be given and giving permission for the medication to be administered by a named person. (Appendix D)
- When administering, the named adult must complete a record (Appendix F) showing the date time and details/dosage of the medication. This must be counter-signed by another adult.
- Medicine is to be returned home at the end of each day and at the end of the course of medication. The parent must sign for the receipt of the medicine to dispose of. (Appendix J)

The medicine must be kept in a locked cupboard (except where storage in a fridge is required) and only accessed by named adults, or with the permission of the Headteacher.

In the case of the child being allowed to administer their own medication, this must again be added to the record and counter-signed by another adult.

Under no circumstances should a parent send a child to school with any medicines, eg throat sweets/tablets, without informing the school. These could cause a hazard to the child or to another child if found and swallowed.

Parents are welcome to come into school to administer medicines themselves that the school refuse to administer.

Asthma

Parents must notify the school if their child is asthmatic. They will need to send a named inhaler into school for their child to use when needed. All inhalers are kept in the first aid cupboard in the staff room. If a child needs to use their inhaler they will ask a member of staff for it who will go with the child and supervise them taking the appropriate dosage. This will then be logged in the Inhaler Log held in the staff room.

A list of known Asthmatics is kept by the first aid cupboard in the staff room.

Inhalers for children on school trips are taken along with the required first aid equipment.

Process for the Administration of Medicines in School - Long term medical needs

Where a child has long-term medical needs, a care plan must be written with the assistance of the school nurse and in the presence of the parent/guardian of the named child. This may also result in an individual risk assessment also being required. The care plan must be followed and reviewed at least annually. (Appendix B)

It is the parent's responsibility to inform the school of any changes to the child's condition that may require the details of the care plan to be altered.

The Headteacher must ensure that named staff are trained to administer or give the level of care required by the details of the care plan. (Appendix H)

As a school, we try to ensure that we have sufficient information about the medical condition of any child with long-term medical needs and will request meetings with parents and recognised medical practitioners regularly to provide the correct level of training. Training should be specific to the individual child concerned.

There will also be regular training for all staff on more generalised needs eg; asthma awareness and epi-pen training.

Process for the Administration of Medicines during residential visits – all medical needs

For the purpose of residential visits, there will be a named person with responsibility for the administration of medicines and care of children as above. Parents will be asked to complete a form and may be required to meet with the named staff to ensure that staff are aware of all medical requirements.

In the case of higher levels of care e.g. : intimate care, the named member of staff will also meet with the school nurse, or other recognised medical advisor to ensure that they are trained in dealing with the level of care required.

Our Administration of Medicines Policy should be read in conjunction with East Sussex County Council Policy on the Administration of Medicines.

*Other related policies:
Health and Safety Policy
Off-site Visits Policy*