

Administering Medicines Policy

We strive to ensure compliance with the relevant legislation and guidance in Health Guidance for Schools with regard to procedures for supporting children with medical requirements, including managing medicines. Responsibility for all administration of medicines is held by the head of provision but delegated to our pastoral mentor.

All medical information is treated confidentially by the responsible manager and staff. All administration of medicines is arranged and managed in accordance with the Health Guidance for Schools document. All staff have a duty of care to follow and co-operate with the requirements of this policy.

Aims and Objectives

Our administration of medicine requirements are achieved by establishing principles for safe practice in the management and administration of:

- prescribed medicines
- non-prescribed medicines
- maintenance drugs
- emergency medicine

We:

- provide clear guidance to all staff on the administration of medicines
- ensure that there are sufficient numbers of appropriately trained staff to manage and administer medicines
- ensure that there are suitable and sufficient facilities and equipment available to aid the safe management and administration of medicines
- ensure the above provisions are clear and shared with all who may require them
- ensure that this policy is reviewed periodically or following any significant change which may affect the management or administration of medicines

Administration of Medicines

The administration of medicines is the overall responsibility of parents/carers. The head of provision is responsible for ensuring children are supported with their medical needs whilst on site, and this may include managing medicines where appropriate and agreed with parents/carers.

Prescribed medicines

It is our policy to manage prescribed medicines (eg. antibiotics, inhalers) where appropriate following consultation and agreement with a written consent from the parents/carers. We only administer medication that is required 4 or more times per day.

Non-prescribed medicines

Non-prescribed medicines will not be administered at Balance Alternative Provision. If parents/carers wish to come to the site and provide homely remedies (e.g. paracetamol) to their child, this is acceptable, but we will only facilitate this by allowing the child to receive the medication from the parent/carer directly. We will not provide the medication.

Maintenance drugs

It is our policy to manage the administration of maintenance drugs (eg. Insulin) as appropriate following consultation and agreement with written consent from parents/carers. On such occasions, a health care plan is in place for the child concerned. Where possible, we would request parents/carers work with medical professionals to ensure any maintenance drugs were to be taken before or after school so we do not have to keep maintenance medication on site. We only administer medication that is required 4 or more times per day.

Procedure for Administration

When deciding upon the administration of medicine needs for children, we discuss this with the parents/carers concerned and make reasonable decisions about the level of care required. Any child required to have medicines will have an 'administration of medicines/treatment' consent form completed by the parent/carer and kept on file.

Individual health care plans are completed for children where required and reviewed periodically in discussion with the parents/carers to ensure their continuous suitability.

All administration of medicines is recorded. If a child refuses to take medication, parents/carers are informed at the earliest available opportunity.

Schedule Two (Controlled) Drugs

These drugs, which include Ritalin, are governed by the Misuse of Drugs Act and are kept in a locked cupboard which conforms to the legislation. It is kept locked at all times except when being accessed for storage or administration of medicine. Keys are kept to a minimum and are held only by our head of provision.

A register of controlled (schedule two) drugs is kept which records:

- medication provided
- medication administered
- the name of the person for whom they were supplied.
- the name and quantity of the drug/medication supplies
- the amount administered each time and the amount left each time.
- the type of medication i.e. tablet/liquid and expiry date.
- two signatures for each dose of medicine given.
- two signatures for each time the medications are counted and checked. This is done once a week. The second signature is a witness.

Register entries are made in ink and in chronological order.

This register is kept for at least two years from the last entry made.

All pupils with ongoing medical needs have a care plan (this may have been provided by their host school). This includes pupils with diabetes, Epipen, heart problems, epilepsy and very severe asthma.

Contacting the Emergency Services

When a medical condition causes the child to become ill and/or requires emergency administration of medicines, then an ambulance will be summoned at the earliest opportunity and parents/carers informed to accompany the pupil to the hospital if at all possible.

Training

Where staff are required to carry out non-routine, more specialised administration of medicines or emergency treatment to children, appropriate professional training and guidance from a competent source is sought before commitment to such administration is accepted.

Storage

The storage of medicines is the overall responsibility of the Headteacher who ensures that arrangements are in place to store medicines safely. Secure storage in a locked filing cabinet situated in our office. Any controlled medication is then stored in a locked case within the locked filing cabinet.

The storage of medicines is undertaken in accordance with product instructions and in the original container in which the medicine was dispensed.

It is the responsibility of all staff to ensure that the received medicine container is clearly labelled with the name of the child, the name and dose of the medicine and the frequency of administration.

It is the responsibility of the parents/carers to provide medicine that is within date. This should be agreed with the parents/carers at the time of acceptance of on-site administration responsibilities.

Disposal of Medicines

It is the responsibility of the parents/carers to ensure that all medicines no longer required, including those which have date-expired, are returned to a pharmacy for safe disposal.