

St. Patrick's National School,

Ughtyneill, Moynalty, Kells, Co. Meath A82VW95

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Administration of Medicines Policy

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Introduction:

An Administration of Medicines policy has been developed by the school to meet the needs of pupils and staff in St. Patrick's N.S.

Rationale:

The policy as outlined was put in place to;

- Clarify areas of responsibility
- To indicate the limitations to any requirements which may be notified to teachers and school staff
- To give clear guidance about situations where it is appropriate to administer medicines.
- Safeguard school staff that are willing to administer medication.

Relationship to School Ethos:

Our school promotes positive home-school contacts in relation to the welfare of children. This policy is in keeping with the school ethos through the provision of a safe, secure and caring school environment.

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
- To highlight the importance of having care plans in place for pupils with critical illnesses and the administration of medication if applicable.

In –School Procedures:

Parents are required to complete a Pupil profile information sheet when enrolling their child/ren in the school. Following on from this any pupil who may need medication in the course of the school day, a care plan will be drawn up for this pupil and agreed upon by parents and staff.

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No teacher or staff member is obliged to administer medicine or drugs to a pupil and any teacher willing to do so works under the controlled guidelines outlined below.

1. Prescribed medicines will only be administered after parents of the pupil concerned have completed a care plan along with a staff member and has authorised staff to do so. Non-prescribed medicines will not 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.
2. 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. A small quantity of such prescription drugs will be stored in the School Office (bottom drawer in filing cabinet) 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. This is detailed on the pupils care plan.
3. 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.
4. This does not imply a duty upon teachers personally to undertake the administration of medicines or drugs.

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, 2 or 3).
- Parents must write requesting the Board of Management to authorise the administration of the medication in school.
- Where specific authorisation has been given by the Board of Management for the administration of medicine, the medicines must be brought to school by the parent/guardian/designated adult.
- A written record of the date and time of administration must be kept by the person administering it (Appendix 4).
- 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.
- All correspondence related to the above are kept in the 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.

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- Where possible, the parents should arrange for the administration of prescribed medicines outside of school hours.

Emergencies: In the event of an emergency, teachers should do no more than is necessary and appropriate to relieve extreme distress or prevent further and otherwise irreparable harm. Qualified medical treatment should be secured in emergencies at the earliest opportunity.

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 have epilepsy, diabetes 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 regularly.

First Aid:

First aid boxes are kept in the office and a medical kit is taken when children are engaged in out of school activities such as tours. These are regularly replenished and checked. A defibrillator is fitted on the wall outside the photocopy area - this will also be taken on when children leave the school building. All staff have received first aid training in April 2021.

Roles and Responsibilities:

The BoM has overall responsibility for the implementation and monitoring of the school policy on Administration of Medication. The Principal is the day to day manager of routines contained in the policy with the assistance of all staff members.

Ratified by Board of Management:

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Next Review Date: 2023 (as deemed necessary)

Signed: _____

Chairperson:

Signed: _____

Principal:

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Appendix 1

Medical Condition and Administration of Medicines

Child's Name: _____

Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Emergency Contacts:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

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?

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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

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Appendix 2

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.

5.

6.

To include: Dial 999 and call emergency services.

Contact Parents

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Appendix 3

Record of Administration of Medicines

Pupil's Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Medical Condition: _____

Medication: _____

Dosage Administered: _____

Administration Details (When, Why, How):

Signed: _____

Date: _____