

Administering Medicines Policy

'Let all that you do, be done in love' 1 Corinthians 16:14

1. INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The staff and governors of St Leonards First School & Nursery are wholly committed to pursuing a policy of inclusive education that welcomes and supports pupils with medical conditions.

This policy is designed to support the management of medication and medical care in school and to support individual pupils with medical needs. The policy is drawn up in consultation with a wide range of local key stake holdings within the school and health care setting and complies with DCFS guidelines for 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions (2014).

2. RATIONALE AND AIMS

To provide a clear policy that is understood and accepted by all staff, parents and children, providing a sound basis for ensuring that children with medical needs receive proper care and support in school, and that for such children attendance is as regular as possible.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES

a. Parents or guardians have prime responsibility for their child's health and should provide the school with up-to-date information about their child's medical conditions, treatment and/or any special care needed. If their child has a more complex medical condition, they should work with the school nurse or other health professionals to develop an individual healthcare plan, which will include an agreement on the role of the school in managing any medical needs and potential emergencies. It is the parent/carers responsibility to make sure that their child is well enough to attend school.

b. There is no legal duty which requires school staff to administer medication; this is a voluntary role. While teachers have a general professional duty to safeguard the health and safety of their pupils and to act in 'loco parentis', that is, to act as any reasonable parent would, this does not imply a duty or obligation to administer medication. Staff will have access to information on pupils' medical conditions and actions to take in an emergency. Staff managing the administration of medicines and those who administer medicines will receive appropriate training and support from health professionals.

c. The policy of St. Leonards First School is not to administer medication or medical care unless the pupil has a medical condition, which if not managed, could prove detrimental to their health or limit access to education. The head teacher accepts responsibility, in principle, for school staff administering or supervising the taking of prescribed medication or medical care during the school day only where it is absolutely necessary.

4. PRESCRIBED MEDICINES

a. Prescribed medicines should only be brought to school when essential; that is, where it would be detrimental to a child's health if the medicine were not administered during the school day.

b. Under normal circumstances medicines prescribed 'three times a day' should be administered "before school, after school and at night" and will not be administered by school staff.

- c. School will administer a dose of medicine at lunchtime if the medicine states 'four times a day.'
- d. Medicines will not be kept in setting and will need to be taken home each day. These will need to be collected from the school office.
- e. Exceptions to this are pupils on health care plans who have individual medical needs requiring regular or emergency medication to treat specific conditions e.g. inhalers. This would include medicines prescribed three times a day in circumstances where timings need to be within a school day.
- f. St. Leonards First School will only accept medicines that have been prescribed by a doctor, dentist, nurse prescriber or pharmacist prescriber and are presented in the original container dispensed by a pharmacist and include the pupil's name, prescriber's instructions for administration and dosage.

5. NON-PRESCRIBED MEDICINES

Non-prescribed medicines will only be administered with prior written permission from parents in extreme circumstances and will usually be covered by a Health Care Plan.

Exceptions to this would be residential trips. Staff will check the medicine has previously been administered without adverse effect and a 'Permission to administer medicines form' must be completed and signed by someone with parental responsibility. Staff will never administer medicines containing aspirin unless prescribed by a doctor.

6. ADMINISTERING MEDICINES

St Leonards School recognises no child under 16 should be given medicines without their parent's written consent. Following written consent using 'Permission to administer medicines form', any member of staff administering medicines to a pupil should check:

- The child's name
- Name of medication
- The prescribed dose
- Expiry date
- Written instructions provided by the prescriber on the label or container

If in doubt about any procedure, staff will not administer the medicine before checking with parents or a health professional before taking further action.

A written record must be kept following administration of medicines to pupils which should be witnessed by a second member of staff.

If a child refuses to take a medicine, staff will not force them to do so, but will record this on the form and parents/carers will be notified of the refusal.

7. LONG-TERM MEDICAL NEEDS

Where a pupil has a chronic illness, medical or potentially life threatening condition, the school will initiate a Health Care Plan to meet individual needs and support the pupil. This will be drawn up by health care professionals or the school in consultation with the child's parents or guardians and will contain the following information:

- Definition and details of the condition
- Special requirements e.g. dietary needs, pre-activity precautions
- Treatment and medication
- What action to take/not to take in an emergency
- Who to contact in an emergency

- Staff training where required
- The role the staff can play
- Consent and agreement

8. RECORD KEEPING

Parents should tell the school about the medicines their child needs to take and provide details of any changes to the prescription, or the support required. Medicines should always be provided in the original container as dispensed by the pharmacist and include the prescriber's instructions.

Requests for staff to administer medication should be written on 'Permission to administer medicines form'. These should include:

- Name of child
- Name of medicine
- Dose
- Method of administration
- Time/frequency of medication
- Any side effects
- Expiry date

Completed forms should be kept in the school office and referred to when administering medication. A record form must be completed by staff following administration; this will also be retained by the school office.

Requests for updated medical information including asthma are distributed to parents at the beginning of each school year. These are collated by the school office and registered and recorded in Bromcom and class folders. All staff have access to this information and actions to take in an emergency.

Children with food allergies have their details in the catering manager's office to ensure that food products are safe for children.

Updated medical conditions and reviews of policies and practice are monitored and disseminated by the SENCO in liaison with the School Office as they are presented.

9. STORING MEDICINES

Staff will only store, supervise and administer medicine that has been prescribed for an individual child. Medicines must be stored safely in the pharmacist's original container and clearly labelled with the child's name, the dosage and instructions for administration.

Non-emergency prescribed medication is stored with the 'Permission to administer medicines form' in the school office. Medication requiring refrigeration is stored in the staff room fridge.

Emergency medications such as Epi-pens and asthma inhalers should be readily available in the classroom. Children should know where their medicines are stored if age appropriate; they should not be locked away.

Parents are ultimately responsible for checking expiry dates on their children's medicines and replacing as necessary.

10. DISPOSAL OF MEDICINES

Staff should not dispose of medicines. Parents are responsible for ensuring that date expired medicines are returned to a pharmacy for safe disposal. They should also collect medicines held at the end of each year. Any medicines that have not been collected should be taken to a local pharmacy for safe disposal.

Sharps boxes should always be used for the safe disposal of needles. Parents should obtain these from their child's GP and return to a pharmacy for safe disposal.

11. EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

a. All staff are aware of procedures when dealing with a medical emergency. These should be supervised by a trained First Aider.

b. All staff are aware of pupils on a Health Care Plan and understand the need to follow agreed emergency support.

c. All staff know how to call the emergency services.

d. In the event of an emergency, every effort will be made to contact a parent so that they may accompany their child to hospital. If this is not possible, a member of staff will accompany the child to hospital by ambulance and stay until the parent arrives. Health care professionals are responsible for any decisions on medical treatment when parents are not available.

12. EDUCATIONAL VISITS

St Leonards First School actively encourages children with medical needs to participate in trips and visits. Staff will aim to facilitate reasonable adjustments to enable pupils with medical needs to participate fully and safely on visits. Risk assessments will be used to highlight any potential difficulties and ensure procedures are in place to support pupils.

Additional staff/adults will be considered for this purpose. Prior to an overnight school trip, parents must complete an up-to-date medical questionnaire about pupil's current general health and medication. Medication will be administered, providing parents have completed a 'Permission to administer medicines form'. Accompanying staff will be aware of any medical needs and relevant emergency procedures. A copy of Health Care Plans will be taken on all visits as well as emergency medication that may be required.

13. STAFF TRAINING

Key staff at St. Leonards First School have received Paediatric First Aid Training in line with Early Years requirements. This is renewed on a three yearly basis. Staff training is provided to support the administration of emergency medications such as Epi-pens or insulin where necessary. The school keeps a register of staff who have undertaken the relevant training. Only staff who have received this training should administer such medications.

14) MEDICAL CONDITIONS

ASTHMA

St. Leonards First School recognises that asthma is a widespread, potentially serious, but controllable condition and encourages pupils with asthma to achieve their potential in all aspects of school life.

a. Parents have a duty to inform staff if their child is asthmatic. Preventative inhalers should be provided and labelled with the pupil and class name. These should be kept in an assigned container within the teacher's cupboard and accompany the child if they are educated outside the school premises.

- b. Children with asthma must have immediate access to inhalers when they need them and know where they are kept. A spacer device may be required and the pupil may need support to use this.
- c. A record sheet to record the frequency of an inhaler use can be found in each class medical bag. This should be completed for all pupils.
- d. Parents should be notified when a child has used an inhaler excessively or more regularly than usual.
- e. Pupils with asthma are listed in the school Asthma Register.
- f. Leaders of 'after school clubs' are notified on club registers if a member is asthmatic.

HEAD INJURIES

Pupils who sustain a head injury **MUST** be reviewed by a First Aider in school. Parents will always be informed of a head injury and are welcome to assess their child personally.

Where there are no residual effects, the pupil can remain in school whilst being observed if the parent wishes.

EPILEPSY, ANAPHYLAXIS AND DIABETES

Parents have a duty and responsibility to notify the school if their child has any of these conditions and should provide details of any treatment and support, they may require in school. Relevant health care professionals will liaise between parents/guardians and school personnel to ensure staff are aware of, and trained to provide, any relevant or emergency support or treatment. An individual Health Care Plan will usually be compiled, detailing the course of action to be taken.

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