



**Administering Medicines Policy
November 2021**

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Governor signature	W. Wills
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Administration of Medicines in School Policy

This policy applies to pupils that have a short term medical illness. Children with long term Medical needs should refer to the Medical Needs policy.

Sections

1. Managing medicines during the school day
2. Managing medicines on trips and outings
3. Roles and responsibilities of staff supervising the administration of medicines
4. Parents' written agreement
5. Policy on children taking and carrying their own medicines
6. Record keeping (Appendices)
7. Storing refrigerated medicines

Administration of Medicines in School Policy

1. Managing medicines during the school day

Medicines should only be taken during the school day when essential. **They must be in the original container including prescriber's instructions.**

Medicines fall into two types:

- a) Prescription medicines and
- b) Non-prescription medicines

Prescription Medication

- Antibiotics that are required three times a day can be managed at home (before school, after school and at bedtime) and will not be administered by the school. However, the school will administer antibiotics that are prescribed four times a day.
- A member of school staff may only administer a drug for whom it has been prescribed, according to the instructions.
- If agreed with the parents the school may look after the drug on behalf of the child.
- The school will keep the prescription medicine in a safe place.
- The school will keep a record for audit and safety purposes (See Appendix 2)
- Prescription drugs will be returned to the parents at the end of each school day.
- Controlled drug, will have a separate individual care plan and medicine will be kept in the school safe.

Non-prescription Medication

- Non-prescribed medicines can only be given to children when parents have given written permission and for no longer than **two** consecutive school days.
- The school will only administer one dose of over the counter medicines i.e. Calpol/ Calbuprofen after 12.30 hours to avoid any chance of overdose.
- Eye and ear drops, teething gels, cough syrups, lozenges, herbal remedies will not be administered without a prescription.
- If the child requires regular doses of non-prescription medicine throughout the school day, then the parent or responsible adult must come in to school to administer.

The school will take responsibility for one dose of medicine to be administered during the school day which should be at a time agreed that will cause the least disruption to the child's learning i.e. lunch time. If this is not agreeable, then the parent or nominated responsible adult may be invited in to administer the dose.

Children absent from school on the grounds of medicine administration will be recorded as unauthorised absence.

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The National Service Framework encourages prescribers to explore medicines which:

- Need only be administered once a day or
- Provide two prescriptions - one for home use, one for school/setting use, so that the medicine can be kept in the original containers when the illness is long-term.

2. Managing medicines on trips and outings

- All children are encouraged to take part in visits. Where necessary the responsible member of staff will carry out a specific and additional risk assessment for the child. Medicine will be administered if feasible and with agreement of the parent.

3. Roles and responsibilities of staff managing or supervising the administration of medicines

The school acknowledges the common law 'duty of care' to act like any prudent parent. This extends to the administration of medicines and taking action in an emergency.

Specific advice and support from the Schools Nursing Service will be available to staff who agree to accept responsibility, as delegated by the Headteacher, for administering medicines and carrying out procedures.

In the event of legal action over an allegation of negligence, the employer rather than the employee is likely to be held responsible.

The Headteacher is responsible for day-to-day decisions, such as:

- Ensuring staff receive advice, support and awareness raising training
- Ensuring all relevant information about pupil needs is shared
- Ensuring staff are aware of their common law duty of care to act as a prudent parent.

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4. Parents' agreement

When drugs are administered, the school will keep a record in the school office.

It is the responsibility of parents to ensure that medicines sent to school are 'in date'. Parents should collect all medicines at the end of the school day.

If medication has not been collected by the end of the school term, or after treatment has ended the medicine will be disposed of. If new supplies are required it is the responsibility of the parents to supply medication as needed.

5. Policy on children taking and carrying their own medicines

Only children of secondary school age may legally carry their own prescription drug (eg. insulin or epi-pens). Asthma medication can be kept in or near the children's classrooms. It must be taken on school trips. Please refer to Medical Needs Policy for long-term illness care plan administration.

6. Record keeping

Appendix

1) Record of Medicines Administered to all Children

