

Medication Distribution Policy



POLICY STATEMENT

Many students attending school need medication to control a health condition. It is necessary that teachers (as part of their duty of care) assist students, where appropriate to take their medication. The school will ensure the students privacy and confidentiality and will exercise sensitivity towards this issue to avoid any stigmatisation. Children who are unwell should not attend school.

1 Guidelines

- 1.1 Our school will have an administration of medication procedure which outlines the school's processes and protocols regarding the management of prescribed and non-prescribed medication to students at this school.
- 1.2 The student's parent/carer may wish to supply medication to be administered at the school. To minimise the quantity of medication held at the school, it should be considered if the medication can be taken outside of the school day, for example medication required three times a day may be able to be taken before and after school, and before bed.
- 1.3 Students will on most occasions need supervision of their medication and other aspects of health care management. The school in consultation with parents/carers and the student's medical/health practitioner may consider the age and circumstances by which the student could be permitted to self-administer their medication, however this may only occur in very rare circumstances.

2 Program

- 2.1 All medications, including prescription as well as non-prescription medication, including analgesics, such as paracetamol and aspirin and other medications which can be purchased over the counter without a prescription, may only be administered if the child has a diagnosed medical condition that requires treatment by analgesic. Written authorisation from a parent and the child's medical practitioner stating the illness and treatment must be provided to the school.
- 2.2 School personnel will need to follow the processes and protocols set out in the Medication Management Procedures (**see Appendix A**) of the school. In order to ensure that the interests of staff, students and parents/guardians/approved persons are not compromised, medication will only be administered with explicit written permission from parent/guardian/approved person, or in the case of an emergency, with permission of a medical practitioner.
- 2.3 When administering prescription medication on behalf of parent/carers, the written advice received must be supported by specific written instructions on the original medication bottle or container, such as that on the pharmacist's label noting the name of the student, dosage and time to be administered. Analgesics can mask signs and symptoms of serious illness or injury and will not, therefore, be administered by the school, as a standard first aid strategy. Therefore analgesics such as aspirin and paracetamol will not be stored in the school's first aid kit.

- 2.4 The principal (or nominee) administering medication needs to ensure that:
- 2.4.1 the right child;
 - 2.4.2 has the right medication;
 - 2.4.3 and the right dose;
 - 2.4.4 by the right route (for example, oral or inhaled);
 - 2.4.5 at the right time;
 - 2.4.6 that they write down what they have observed; and
 - 2.4.7 permission to administer medication has been received from the child's parents/guardians/approved persons or a medical practitioner.
- 2.5 The principal or their nominee will inform teachers of those students in their charge who require medication to be administered at the school. The teachers may be required to release students at prescribed times so they may receive their medications from the principal or nominee.
- 2.6 The School register will be completed by the person administering the taking of medication.
- 2.7 The school in consultation with parents/carers and the student's medical/health practitioner will consider the age and circumstances by which the student could be permitted to self-administer their medication. Ideally, medication to be self-administered by the student should be stored by the school. However, where immediate access is required by the student, such as in the case of asthma, anaphylaxis, or diabetes, medication must be stored in an easily accessible location.
- Note:** It is at the principal's discretion to agree for the student to carry and manage his/her own medication.
- 2.8 Students attending NOOSCH and requiring prescribed medication will have their medication brought to/from the school office by the program coordinator. Parents must inform the NOOSCH coordinator in writing of any medication requirements.
- 2.9 Students involved in school camps or excursions will be discreetly administered prescribed medications by the 'Teacher in Charge' in a manner consistent with the above procedures, with all details recorded on loose-leaf pages from the official medications register. Completed pages will be returned to the official medications register on return of the excursion to school.

LINKS AND APPENDICES (including processes related to this policy)

Links which are connected with this policy are:

- [DEECD Medication Policy](#)
- [DEECD Anaphalaxis Policy](#)
- [DEECD Health Support Planning Policy](#)
- [Asthma Society Webpage](#)

Appendices which are connected with this policy are:

- Appendix A: Medication Management Procedures
- Appendix B: Medication Authority Form

EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council:

Medication Management Procedures

The school has developed procedures for the appropriate storage and administration of prescribed and non-prescribed medicines to students by school staff with reference to individual student medical information.

Student Information

Parents and/or guardians are required to keep the school informed of current medical contact details concerning students and any current medical conditions and appropriate medical history. Every student who has a medical condition or illness has an individual management plan that is attached to the student's records. This management plan is provided by the student's parents/guardians and contains details of:

- the usual medical treatment needed by the student at school or on school activities
- the medical treatment and action needed if the student's condition deteriorates
- the name, address and telephone numbers for an emergency contact and the student's doctor

Administration of prescribed Oral Medication

- Parents/guardians are required to inform the principal in writing of any prescribed medication that students need to take in school hours.
- Where medication is required in spontaneous situations, detailed administration instructions should be provided, for example in the case of asthma attacks. Medication Authority Forms are available from the Administration Office and should be completed and signed by the parent/guardian.
- All medication sent to school is to be administered by school staff and, parents/guardians are required to supply medication in a container that gives the name of the medication, name of the student, the dose, and the time it is to be given.
- Where medication for more than one day is supplied, it is to be locked in the storage cupboard in the school administration office.

Administration of Analgesics

Analgesics are only to be given following written authorisation from a parent and the child's medical practitioner stating the illness and the treatment.

Asthma

Asthma is an extremely common condition for Australian students. Students with asthma have sensitive airways in their lungs. When exposed to certain triggers their airways narrow, making it hard for them to breathe.

Symptoms of asthma commonly include:

- cough
- tightness in the chest
- shortness of breath/rapid breathing
- wheeze (a whistling noise from the chest)

Many children have mild asthma with very minor problems and rarely need medication. However, some students will need medication on a daily basis and frequently require additional medication

at school (particularly before or after vigorous exercise). Most students with asthma can control their asthma by taking regular medication.

Student Asthma Information

Every student attending the school who has a written Asthma Action Plan (ideally completed by their treating doctor or paediatrician, in consultation with the student's parent/carer) has the condition acknowledged in the Medications Folder which is located at the school office and in the sick bay.

This plan is attached to the student's records and updated annually or more frequently if the student's asthma changes significantly. The Asthma Action Plan should be provided by the student's doctor and is accessible to all staff. It contains information including:

- usual medical treatment (medication taken on a regular basis when the student is 'well' or as pre-medication prior to exercise)
- details on what to do and details of medications to be used in cases of deteriorating asthma – this includes how to recognise worsening symptoms and what to do during an acute asthma attack
- name, address and telephone number of an emergency contact
- name, address and telephone number (including an after-hours number) of the student's doctor.

If a student is obviously and repeatedly experiencing asthma symptoms and/or using an excessive amount of reliever medication, the parents/carers will be notified so that appropriate medical consultation can be arranged. Students needing asthma medication during school attendance will have their medication use, date, time and amount of dose recorded in the office.

Asthma Medication

There are three main groups of asthma medications: relievers, preventers and symptom controllers. There are also combination medications containing preventer and symptom controller medication in the same delivery device.

Reliever medication provides relief from asthma symptoms within minutes. It relaxes the muscles around the airways for up to four hours, allowing air to move more easily through the airways. Reliever medications are usually blue in colour and common brand names include Airomir, Asmol, Bricanyl, Epaq and Ventolin. These medications will be easily accessible to students at all times, preferably carried by the student with asthma. All students with asthma are encouraged to recognise their own asthma symptoms and take their blue reliever medication as soon as they develop symptoms at school.

Preventer medications come in autumn colours (for example brown, orange and yellow) and are used on a regular basis to prevent asthma symptoms. They are mostly taken twice a day at home and will generally not be seen in the school environment.

Symptom controllers are green in colour and are often referred to as long acting relievers. Symptom controllers are used in conjunction with preventer medication and are taken at home once or twice a day.

Symptom controllers and preventer medications are often combined in one device. These are referred to as combination medications and will generally not be seen at school.

MEDICATION REQUEST FORM



TEL: 9481 0009

Fax: 9481 4080

DATE:

PARENT'S NAME:

ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE:
(Business Hours)

Dear Principal,

I request that my child _____ (Child's Name) in Grade _____
be administered the following medication whilst at school, as prescribed by the child's medical practitioner.

NAME of MEDICATION:

MEDICATION REQUIRED FROM:

DOSAGE (AMOUNT):

(e.g. 5ml or ½ tablet)

TIME/S of MEDICATION:

(e.g. before or after food, 1.00 p.m.)

I have included the medication in the original container displaying the instructions provided by the pharmacist.

Yours sincerely

(Parent Signature)