

Administration of Medicines Policy

Bennekerry N.S.

Introduction:

An Administration of Medication policy has been in existence in the school since 2009. The policy was recently redrafted through a collaborative school process.

Rationale:

The policy as outlined was put in place to;

- Clarify areas of responsibility
- To give clear guidance about situations where it is not appropriate to administer medicines
- To indicate the limitations to any requirements which may be notified to teachers and school staff
- To outline procedures to deal with a pupil with a nut allergy in our school
- Safeguard school staff that are willing to administer medication
- Protect against possible litigation.

Relationship to School Ethos:

The school promotes positive home-school contacts, not only in relation to the welfare of children, but in relation to all aspects of school life. This policy is in keeping with the school ethos through the provision of a safe, secure and caring school environment and the furthering of positive home-school links.

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
- Fulfill 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

In-School Procedures:

Parents are required to complete a Health/Medication form when enrolling their child/children in the school. No teacher is obliged to administer medicine or drugs to a pupil and any teacher willing to do so works under the controlled guidelines outlined below.

- Prescribed medicines will only be administered after parents of the pupil concerned have written to the BoM requesting the Board to authorise a member of the teaching staff to do so. Under no circumstance will non-prescribed medicines 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
- 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 prescription drugs, such as inhalers and epi-pens, will be stored in the Secretary's Office if a child requires self-administering daily, and parents have requested storage facilities. Parents are responsible for the provision of up to date medication and notification of change of dosage.
- Teachers have a professional duty to safeguard the health and safety of pupils, both when they are authorised to be on the school premises and when they are engaged in authorised school activities elsewhere.
- 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.
- 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 2). 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

1. The parents of the pupil with special medical needs must inform the Board of Management, through the school, 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 and possibly 2)
2. Parents must write requesting the Board of Management, through the school, to authorise the administration and storage of the medication in school.
3. 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.
4. A written record of the date and time of administration (other than inhalers) must be kept by the person administering it (Appendix 3).
5. Parents/Guardians are responsible for ensuring that emergency medication is supplied to the school and replenished when necessary.
6. Emergency medication must have exact details of how it is to be administered and stored.
7. 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. (Appendix 1)
8. All correspondence related to the above are kept in the school.

Medicines

- Non-prescribed medicines will not normally be stored or administered to pupils in school. In certain circumstances, when a parent/guardian has given permission and specific instructions in writing, (Appendix 1), theBoM, through the Principal, may allow for storage and administration of such medication.
- 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 and First Aid persons.
- A teacher/SNA must not administer any medication without the specific authorisation of the Board of Management, through the Principal.
- 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.
- Children are not permitted to keep medication in bags, coats, etc.
- Where possible, the parents should arrange for the administration of prescribed medicines outside of school hours.

The following guidelines are in place with regard to pupils with a Nut Allergy

1. Staff dealing with the pupil do not eat nuts or any item with nut trace in the vicinity of the child.
2. The School Healthy Eating Policy prohibits all pupils from bringing nuts or foods which contain nuts or traces of nuts to school.
3. Children are not allowed to offer or exchange foods, sweets, lunches etc. except on special occasions, such as class parties. Pupils with allergies are asked not to take sweets, treats from other pupils on these occasions.
4. If going off-site, medication must be carried.

In the event the pupil comes in contact with peanuts

Procedures as outlined by parents/guardians will normally be followed which may include....

1. Administer 5ml Zirtec or other antihistamine immediately. It is important that the pupil be kept calm to allow him to breathe calmly as he/she will experience discomfort and sensation of his/her throat swelling. These steps should allow him/her to recover fully.
2. Only in the event of anaphylactic shock should the pen be administered. Pen is stored in the Secretary's Office. Before or immediately after Pen has been administered, an ambulance must be called.

Indicators of shock include

Symptoms of shock can include, wheezing, severe difficulty breathing and gastrointestinal symptoms such as abdominal pain, cramps, vomiting and diarrhoea.

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.

Where no qualified medical treatment is available, and circumstances warrant immediate medical attention, an ambulance may be called to take a child into Accident and Emergency without delay. Parents will be contacted simultaneously.

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 are epileptics, diabetics 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. (Appendix 2)

The school maintains an up to date register of contact details of all parents/guardians including emergency numbers. This is updated in September of each new school year. Outside emergency contact numbers are on display in the Secretary's and Principal's offices and also the Staffroom.

First Aid Boxes:

A full medical kit is taken when children are engaged in out of school activities such as tours, football/hurling games and athletic activities.

A first aid box is kept in the Secretary's Office. The contents are in-line with the HAS Guidelines 2007 Chapter 2 of Part 7.

General Recommendations:

We recommend that any child who shows signs of illness should be kept at home; requests from parents to keep their children in at lunch break are not encouraged. A child too sick to play with peers should not be in school.

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. The Deputy Principal is the Safety Officer and the maintenance and replenishment of First Aid Boxes is looked after by the School Secretary. The Secretary and selected members of staff have been trained in First Aid and the Secretary generally administers First Aid as required.

A defibrillator is available in the Secretary's Office and staff members have been trained to use it effectively. The secretary insures that it is functioning, and pads are replaced when required.

Success Criteria:

The effectiveness of the school policy in its present form is measured by the following criteria;

- Compliance with Health and Safety legislation
- Maintaining a safe and caring environment for children
- Positive feedback from parents/teachers
- Ensuring the primary responsibility for administering remains with parents/guardians

Ratification and Review:

This policy was ratified by the BoM in October 2018. It will be reviewed in the event of incidents or on the enrolment of child/children with significant medical conditions.

Signed: _____ (Chairperson) Date: _____

Signed: _____ (Principal) Date: _____

Appendix 1

Medical Condition and Administration of Medicines

Child's Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

Emergency Contacts

1) Name: _____ Phone: _____

2) Name: _____ Phone: _____

3) Name: _____ Phone: _____

4) 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? Yes/No *(delete as appropriate)*

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: _____ (1)Parent/Guardian(2) _____

Date: _____

Appendix 2

Emergency Procedures

In the event of _____ displaying any symptoms of his/her 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***

Signed: _____ (parent/guardian) Date: _____

Signed: _____ (parent/guardian) Date: _____

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: _____