

St. Paul's N.S.

Introduction

An Administration of Medication policy has been in existence in the school since 2006. The policy was recently reviewed by Staff through a collaborative school process and was ratified by the Board of Management (BOM) on 16th May 2022.

St Paul's has a Staff/Pupil Anaphylaxis Policy.

Rationale

The policy as outlined was put in place to;

- Clarify areas of responsibility
- Give clear guidance about situations where it is not appropriate to administer medicines
- Indicate the limitations to any requirements which may be notified to teachers and school staff
- Outline procedures to deal with a pupil with a nut or other significant 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
- 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

Recommendation

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.

Medicines for short term illnesses (prescribed and non-prescribed)

- These medicines will neither be stored nor administered to pupils in school by staff.
- The medicine can be self-administered if possible or administered by a parent.
- It is recommended that children keep medication in their school bags.
- Where possible, the parents should arrange for the administration of prescribed or non-prescribed medicines outside of school hours.

Long Term Health Conditions

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 (Appendix 1).

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 for long term and life threatening illnesses will only be administered after parents of the pupil concerned have written to the BOM requesting the Board to authorise a member of the staff to do so. The Board will seek indemnity from parents in respect of any liability arising from the administration of medicines.
- Under no circumstance will non-prescribed medicines be either stored or administered in the school.
- 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 will be securely stored in the classroom 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 written 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 information should be updated at the beginning of each school year and as necessary if any changes occur. Parents will be reminded of this in the first note of the school year in September.
- This does not imply a duty upon teachers personally to undertake the administration of medicines or drugs.
- Where a child is suffering from a long term or life threatening condition, the emergency protocol together with the child's photo will be clearly displayed in the staffroom and the child's classroom.

Guidelines for the Administration of Medicines

1. 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)
2. Parents must write requesting the Board of Management to authorise the administration 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 must be kept by the person administering it (Appendix 4)
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
7. The Board of Management must inform the school's insurers accordingly
8. 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
9. All correspondence related to the above are kept in the school.

Emergencies

In the event of a medical emergency, teachers should do what is necessary and appropriate, to the best of their ability, 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, designated staff members may 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.

The school maintains an up to date register of contact details of all parents/guardians including emergency numbers. This is updated in September or when necessary during each school year.

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.

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 Board of Management on 16th May 2022.

It will be reviewed as required.

Implementation

The policy will be implemented in May 2022.

Ratification and Communication

The Board of Management ratified this policy on the 16th May 2022

Signed: Rev Andrew Ison (Chairperson, BOM)

Date: 16/5/22

Signed: Mary Bourke (Principal)

Date: 16/5/22

Appendix 1

Medical Condition and Administration of Medicines

Child's Name: _____

Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____

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?

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

Date _____

Appendix 2

Allergy Details

Type of Allergy: _____

Reaction Level: _____

Medication: _____

Storage details: _____

Dosage required: _____

Administration Procedure (When, Why, How)

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Appendix 3

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

Appendix 4

Record of administration of Medicines

Pupil's Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Medical Condition: _____

Medication: _____

Dosage Administered: _____

Administration Details (When, Why, How)

Signed: _____

Date: _____