

## Administration of Medicine Policy

Scoil Naomh Pio

### **Introduction:**

An Administration of Medication policy has been in existence in the school since 2015. The policy was drafted through a collaborative school process and was updated by the Board of Management in October 2024.

### **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 allergies 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

### **In –School Procedures:**

Parents are required to complete a Health/Medication section form when enrolling their 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 Board of Management 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.

● Exceptions can be made where a parent informs the school of required medication during a period where the Board of Management are not meeting. The Principal will approve the request and it will be noted for the next Board of Management meeting .

● 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. No medicines are stored on the school premises. A small quantity of prescription drugs will be stored in the Administration Office 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 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 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.

### **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 by completing appendix 1, 2 or 3. The request must also contain written instruction of the procedure to be followed in administering the medication ( Appendix 1,2 or 3)
2. The Board of Management will correspond in writing where specific authorisation has been given by the Board for the administration of medicine and the medicines must be brought to the school by the parent/guardian/designated adult
3. A written record of the date and time of administration must be kept by the person administering it (Appendix 4)
4. Parents/Guardians are responsible for ensuring that emergency medication is supplied to the school , that it is in date and that it is replenished when necessary
5. Emergency medication must have exact details of how it is to be administered

6. The BoM must inform the school's insurers accordingly

7. By signing the Administration of Medicine form Parents/Guardians have indemnified the Board of Management and members of staff in respect of any liability that may arise regarding the administration of prescribed medicines in school

8. All correspondence related to the above are kept in the school

### **Medicines**

- Non-prescribed medicines will neither be stored nor administered to pupils in school
- 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
- A teacher/SNA must not administer any medication without the specific authorisation of the Board of Management
- 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
- 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 number of Allergies including nuts**

1. Staff dealing with the pupil do not eat nuts of any item with nut trace
2. Advise children not to offer or exchange foods, sweets, lunches etc.
3. If going off-site, medication must be carried.
4. Medication is carried on yard by teacher/SNA on duty wearing hi vis
5. All staff are certified in EPI pen use.

### **Indicators of shock include**

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

### **School Doctor:**

Duleek Health Centre Contact

Number 041-9823595

### **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, designated staff members may decide a child needs to be taken to the Accident and Emergency Department 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 epileptic, diabetic 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 circumstance under which medication is to be given. Parents should also outline clearly proper procedures for children who require medication for life threatening conditions.

The school App Aladdin contains contact details of all parents/guardians including emergency numbers. The school requests parents to update these contact details in September of each new school year. 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.

#### **First Aid Boxes:**

A first aid kit is taken when children are engaged in out of school activities such as tours and sporting activities.

A first aid box is kept in the secretary's office containing anti-septic wipes, anti-septic bandages, sprays, steri-strips, cotton wool, scissors etc.

The yard has a box containing first aid equipment; plasters, antiseptic wipes and each class teacher has one to bring out onto yard.

#### **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. Catherine Nolan is the Health and Safety Officer and the maintenance and replenishment of First Aid Boxes is a post of responsibility within the middle management structure in the school.

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 updated by the BoM in October 2024. It will be reviewed in the event of incidents or on the enrolment of child/children with significant medical conditions, but no later than October 2025.

**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? (The likes of inhalers should be taken by the child themselves, unless there is a particular reason for not doing so. Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**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 wellbeing 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**