

John Harrox Primary School Managing Medication Policy

Aims

To outline the policy and procedures for managing medicines in schools so it is understood by staff, parents and children and so that all children, including those with medical needs receive proper care and support in our school.

School staff are not required by law to administer medication to children. The policy aims to outline principles in which it may be agreed that staff supervise children in taking medication or administer medication to children. No staff will be forced to supervise or administer the taking of medication. Decisions will be taken on a case by case basis taking into account this policy.

Objectives

- To encourage and support inclusive practice
- To support regular attendance by all children

Important procedures

- Procedures for managing prescription medicines which need to be taken during a school day
- Procedures for managing prescription medicines on trips and outings
- Statement of roles and responsibilities for staff managing and administering medicines
- Statement of parental responsibilities in respect of their child's medical needs
- The need for prior written agreement from parents and carers for any medicines to be given to a child
- Circumstances in which a child may take non-prescription medicines
- Policy on assisting children with long term or complex medical needs
- Policy on children carrying and taking their medicine themselves
- Staff training
- Record keeping
- Safe storage of medicines

As an inclusive setting, we recognise that there may be times when medication needs to be administered to ensure a child's participation in our school. We will therefore administer medication and supervise children taking their own medication according to the procedures in this policy.

- We ask parents and carers to ask their doctor wherever possible to prescribe medication which can be taken outside of the school day. For example where three doses are required on a daily basis.
- We are prepared, however, to consider taking responsibility for those occasions when a child needs to take medication during the school day in strict accordance

with the procedures in this policy and following the guidance in the DfES document 'Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings' (2005). Model forms will be used from this document when medication is administered or supervised.

- We will usually only support or administer prescribed medication but may administer some over the counter medications according to the needs of the individual child, usually only for periods of residential trips.

Children with Special Medical Needs

- Should we be asked to admit a child to the school with special medical needs we will, in partnership with the parents/carers, discuss their individual needs and write a Personal Care Plan. We will also involve other outside agencies as appropriate to the needs of the child and family.
- Any resulting training needs will be identified and arranged from the appropriate support agencies and the family as required.

Procedures

1. On Admission

All parents and carers are asked to complete a family held record giving full details of medical conditions, regular and emergency medication, emergency contact numbers, name of family doctor, details of hospital consultants, allergies, special dietary requirements and any other health information that may affect their child's care.

2. Emergency Medication

Specific specialised training is required for those staff prepared to act in emergency situations. Staff who agree to administer the emergency medication must have training from an appropriate health care professional which should be updated annually. Emergency medication could include asthma reliever inhalers, emergency treatment for allergies eg. Epipen, emergency treatment for epilepsy, emergency treatment for diabetes.

3. Administration of Prescribed Medication

3.1 Should a child need to receive medication during the school day parents or carers will be asked to come into school and personally hand over the medication to the Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher or a senior member of staff.

3.2 On receipt of medication staff will complete a Medicine Record Sheet.

3.3 The medication should be in the original container as dispensed clearly labelled with the instructions for administration including:

- The child's name
- Name of medication
- Strength of medication
- How much to be given
- When to be given

- Date dispensed and/or expiry date. (If no date given, the medication should be replaced 6 months after date dispensed)
- Length of treatment
- Any other instructions

NB A label 'to be taken as directed' does not provide sufficient information.

3.4 Liquid medication should be measured accurately using a medicine spoon or syringe. Medication should not be added to food or drinks unless there is a specific reason.

3.5 An 'Agreement for School Administration of Medicine' should be completed by the parent/carer. This will be kept in the medical folder in the school office. A separate form will be required for each medication.

3.6 A record of the administration of each dose will be kept and signed on the Medicine Record Sheet.

3.7 Should the medicine need to be changed or discontinued before the completion of the course or if the dosage changes the school should be notified in writing by the parent/carer. A new supply of medication – correctly labelled with the new dose – should be obtained and a new consent form completed.

3.8 Should the supply need to be replenished this should be done in person by the parent or carer.

4. Application of Creams and Lotions

4.1 Non prescribed creams and lotions will not be applied by school staff and only in extreme circumstances will it be agreed to apply prescribed creams and lotions. This will be at the discretion of the Headteacher or Assistant Headteacher, in line with this policy and only with written consent from parents and carers.

4.2 Parents and carers are responsible for sending in the cream, labelled for the individual child, if they wish cream to be applied.

4.3 Steriod creams are usually applied twice daily only – we would usually expect these to be applied at home.

4.4 Sun cream needs to be supplied by parents and carers and will not be administered by school staff. We ask parents and carers to apply sun block in the morning before coming to school. Children may bring in their own creams but parents and carers must ensure it is in date and of at least SPF 25 or above. It should be labelled clearly and is the child's responsibility.

5. Alternative Medication

Alternative medication, including homeopathic medication and herbal remedies, will not be administered unless prescribed or agreed by a GP/consultant.

6. Simple Analgesics (Pain Relief)

These will only be given if there is an on-going medical condition i.e. febrile convulsions and it has been prescribed by a GP/consultant.

7. Refusing Medication

7.1 If a child refuses medication staff will not force them to take it.

7.2 The refusal will be noted and parents contacted by telephone.

7.3 In the event of a child refusing emergency medication parents and carers will, of course, be contacted immediately by telephone. The emergency services will be contacted immediately and a member of school staff will accompany the child to hospital to allow parents time to arrive.

8. Storage and Disposal of Medication

8.1 All medication with the exception of emergency medication and medication requiring refrigeration will be kept in a locked cupboard.

8.2 Medication requiring refrigeration will be stored in the fridge in the staff room inside its clearly labelled container in which it was dispensed. It will not be accessible to children.

8.3 Emergency medication will be stored out of the reach of children, in the same room as the child wherever possible and easily accessible to staff. All members of staff working in the school will need to be made aware of the location of the emergency medication.

8.4 . Parents and carers will be asked to collect any medication which is no longer needed, is out of date or not clearly labelled.

8.5 Any medication which is not collected by parents and carers and is no longer required will be disposed of safely at a community pharmacy. No medication should be disposed of into the sewage system or refuse.

8.6 Asthma inhalers should be labelled clearly with the child's name and kept in a box in the classroom. This must travel with the children for off site visits. Parents are responsible for checking that the inhalers are in date.

9. Offsite Activities and Educational Visits

9.1 The named leader of the activity must ensure that all children have their medication, including any emergency medication available. The medication will be carried by a named member of staff. This also includes asthma inhalers and other relief medication. Record forms are also taken to ensure normal administration procedures are followed.

9.2 For residential visits parents and carers are required to complete a consent form for all forms of medication. This includes over the counter medication such as travel sickness.

9.3 All parents and carers are asked to sign a consent form to give permission for a small dosage (stated on the consent form) of paracetamol to be administered should the child require this during the trip. Any such administration of paracetamol is recorded and parents are informed and asked to counter sign on the child's return.

10 Insurance

All staff are covered by the Local Authority insurance cover.

11. Training

Training needs are reviewed annually according to the needs of our children. This policy is part of our staff induction programme and is reviewed annually. Training needs are identified for individual staff through annual performance and appraisal meetings. Training for specific conditions eg. Asthma is provided for the whole staff at least every two years.

Policy agreed by the Governing Body March 2013 – to be reviewed bi-annually.