

Drafted April 2018

# Administration of Medicines Policy

## Lavally NS

### Administration of Medicines Policy

#### 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 member of 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
- 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 of children requiring prescribed medication complete a Health/Medication form when enrolling their child/ren in the school. No member of staff is obliged to administer medicine or drugs to a pupil and any member of staff 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 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 will be stored if a child requires such and parents have requested storage facilities. Parents are responsible for the provision of medication and notification of change of dosage.
- Members of staff 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 members of staff be made aware in writing of any medical condition suffered by any child in their class.
- This does not imply a duty upon members of staff 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. 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 BoM 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.

### **Medicines**

- Non-prescribed medicines will neither be stored nor administered to pupils in school.
- Members of staff in the school will only administer prescribed medication when arrangements have been put in place as outlined above. Training on how to use an Anapen is given to staff willing to use the Anapen (and agreed by the BoM).
- Arrangements for the storage of certain emergency medicines, which must be readily accessible at all times, must be made with the Principal
- A member of staff 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 member of staff/ if not the parent.
- No member of staff 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.
- It is not recommended that children 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.
2. Advise children not to offer or exchange foods, sweets, lunches etc.
3. If going off-site, medication must be carried.

**In the event the pupil comes in contact with peanuts**

1. Administer 5ml Zirtec/Sudafed or other antihistamine immediately. It is important that the pupil be kept calm to allow him to breathe calmly as he will experience discomfort and sensation of his/her throat swelling. If possible (s)he needs to drink as much water as possible. 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 relevant classroom. Before or immediately after the 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.

**School Doctor** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Number** \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergencies:**

In the event of an emergency, members of staff 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 take a child into Accident and Emergency without delay. Parents will be contacted simultaneously.

In addition, parents must ensure that members of staff are made aware in writing of any medical condition which their child is suffering from. For example children who have epilepsy or diabetes etc. may have a seizure at any time and members of staff 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 of each new school year.

**First Aid Box:**

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

**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.

**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/members of staff
- Ensuring the primary responsibility for administering remains with parents/guardians.

**Ratification and Review:**

This policy was ratified by the BoM in Lavally NS at the 25th May 2022 meeting. It will be reviewed in the event of incidents or on the enrolment of child/children with significant medical conditions.

Signed:

Date

**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 we must inform the school/Member of staff of any changes of medicine/dose in writing and that we must inform the Member of staff 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**

**School Year: September \_\_\_\_\_ to June \_\_\_\_\_**

In the event of \_\_\_\_\_ displaying any symptoms of his medical difficulty, the following procedures should be followed.

Symptoms: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Procedures:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

***To include: Dial 999 and call emergency services and contact parents.***

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_



**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: \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix 5

### LETTER OF INDEMNITY

#### To Board of Management, Lavally National School.

1. I/We request that the Board of Management authorise the taking of prescription medicine during the school day as is absolutely necessary for the continued well-being of my/our child.
2. I/We understand that the school has limited facilities for the safe storage of prescription medicines and that the prescribed amounts be brought in as required. In the event of certain specific medicines being stored, the expiry date is the responsibility of the parents.
3. I/We understand that we must inform the school of any changes of medicine/dose in writing and that we must inform the school each year of the prescription/medical condition.
4. I/We acknowledge that the above facility provided by the school is on a purely voluntary basis and without any obligation whatsoever on the part of the school.
5. In consideration of the school facilitating me/us as stipulated in point 1 above, I/we hereby indemnify the Board of Management of Lavally NS in respect of all losses, claims, demands, actions or proceedings whatsoever arising under any statute or common law in respect of personal injury or injury of any nature whatsoever arising out of/in the course of/caused directly or indirectly by the storage of the said medication by/or at the school and/or on application of the said medication to my/our child.
6. I/We understand that no school member of staff has any medical training and we indemnify the Board from any liability that may arise from the administration of the medication.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix 6

Dear Parents,

As per our school's 'Administration of Medicine' policy, we require a letter from parents giving indemnity to the Board of Management of Lavally NS before a member of staff is permitted to administer medicines to/oversee administration of medication to a child in school.

Please refer to the school's 'Administration of Medicine' policy.

Please see attached forms to be filled and returned to the school as soon as possible. The attached letter of indemnity will be ratified by the Board of Management. The forms in relation to the administration of the medications will be stored with your child's medicines by a member of school staff. Children are not permitted to store medicines in their schoolbags, etc.

These documents should be signed by both parents and may be accompanied by a letter from a doctor.

The letter and forms must be redone every school year with the current date, taking any changes in allergy sensitivities, manifestations, dosages, etc. into account. The expiry date of medications is the responsibility of parents. Please replace as necessary.

Yours sincerely,

Tommy Grealley

Principal.