

Kenninghall Primary School
Administration of Medicines
Policy

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Introduction

Schools are expected to develop policies on managing medicines, and to put in place effective management systems to support individual children with medical needs. At Kenninghall Primary School we believe that positive responses to a child's medical needs will not only benefit the child directly, but can also positively influence the attitude of their peers.

All members of staff have a duty to maintain professional standards of care and to ensure that our pupils are safe. In response to the Equality Act 2010, we make reasonable adjustments for disabled school users, including those with medical needs, and we plan strategically to improve access over time. In response to the requirement to support pupils at school with medical conditions we also produce individual healthcare plans and make reasonable adjustments to enable pupils with medical needs to participate fully in all areas of school life including educational visits and sporting activities.

There is no legal or contractual duty on staff to administer medicine or supervise a child taking it. In an emergency, swift action must be taken by any member of staff to assist any child. Teachers and school staff have a common law of duty of care to act like any reasonably prudent parent. This duty also extends to staff leading activities taking place off site, such as visits, outings or field trips.

Administration of medicines is not considered to be first aid and a separate policy on first aid exists.

Objectives and targets

The purpose of this policy is to put into place effective management systems and arrangements to support those children with medical needs in our school and to provide clear guidance for staff and parents/carers on the administration of medicines so that all children with a medical requirement can be cared for well while in school.

Action plan

At Kenninghall Primary School, non-prescribed medicines, eg pain relief are never administered without first checking maximum dosages and when the previous dose was taken. The prior consent of parents is required if possible and they will, in any case be informed. Aspirin is never given unless prescribed by a doctor.

Similarly, no child will be given prescription medicines without their parent's written consent – except in exceptional circumstances where the medicine has been prescribed to the child without the knowledge of the parents. In such very rare cases, every effort will be made to encourage the pupil to involve their parents while

respecting their right to confidentiality. We do not however expect this to happen with primary age children.

For any child who will need to have medicine administered at school on a regular basis, an individual healthcare plan will be drawn up in consultation with the school, parents/carers and health professionals. The health care plan will outline the child's needs and the level of support required in school. It will be reviewed at least annually.

Under the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 covering the administration of medicines no child under 16 will be given medicines without their parent's written consent so any parent wishing their child to have medication administered must complete the form 'Parent request for school to administer medication'. The headteacher must agree in writing to the request by completing the form 'headteacher/head of setting agreement to administer medication' (see appendix 2) before any administration of medication takes place.

Children may carry, and administer, their own medicines if they are considered able to do so and if the parent has completed the form 'request to self-administer medication' (see appendix 4). If this is the case, then staff need only to supervise the action.

If a child refuses to take medication, staff must not force them to do so, but should note this in the records along with the reasons for refusal and any action then taken by the staff member. Parents will be informed of the refusal as soon as possible on the same day. If a refusal to take medicines results in an emergency, the school's emergency procedures should be followed – See 'contacting emergency services' (appendix 7).

Kenninghall Primary School holds salbutamol inhalers for use only in emergencies. The inhalers may only be used by children whose parents have agreed to the use of the emergency inhaler and who have either been diagnosed with asthma and prescribed an inhaler, or who have been prescribed an inhaler as reliever medication. The inhaler will be used if the pupil's prescribed inhaler is not available (eg because it is broken, or empty).

Children with medical needs have the same rights of admission to school as other children, and cannot generally be excluded from school for medical reasons. Occasionally though a pupil's presence on the school site represents a serious risk to the health and safety of other pupils, or school staff, and the headteacher may send the pupil home that day after consultation with the parents. This is not an exclusion and may only be done for medical reasons.

Role and responsibilities: school staff

The headteacher, in consultation with the governing board, staff, parents/carers, health professionals and the local authority (LA) – where the LA is the employer – will decide how our school can assist a child with medical needs. The headteacher is responsible for:

- Implementing the policy on a daily basis.

- Ensuring that the procedures are understood and implemented.
- Ensuring appropriate training is provided.
- Making sure that there is effective communication with parents/carers, pupils, staff and all relevant health professionals concerning pupils' health needs.
- Determining if medication is to be administered in school, and by whom, following consultation with staff.
- Ensuring that all members of staff are aware of the school's planned emergency procedures in the event of medical needs.

Staff, including supply staff, will be informed of any pupil's medical needs where this is relevant and of any changes to their needs as and when they might arise. All staff, parents and pupils will be informed of the designated person with responsibility for medical care.

All medicine will normally be administered during breaks and lunchtimes. If, for medical reasons, medicine has to be taken during the day, arrangements will be made for the medicine to be administered at other prescribed times. Pupils will be told where their medication is kept and who will administer it.

Any member of staff giving medicine to a pupil should check on each occasion:

- Name of pupil.
- Written instruction provided by parents/carers or doctor.
- That the medication is labelled and provided in the original container as dispensed by a pharmacist and includes the instructions for administration, dosage and storage. (The exception to this is insulin which must still be in date, but will generally be available to schools inside an insulin pen or pump, rather than in its original container).
- Expiry date of the medication and of the request to administer it.
- That permission has been granted by the headteacher to administer medication to the child.
- That any needles and other sharps are placed in the sharps box for disposal.

If the circumstances require an intimate or invasive treatment then this will only take place at the discretion of the headteacher and governors, with written permission from the parents/carers and only under exceptional circumstances. Two adults, one the same gender as the child, must be present for the administration of such treatment. Cases will be agreed and reviewed on an annual basis. All such treatments will be recorded.

If in doubt about any procedure, staff should not administer the medicines but check with the parents or a health professional before taking further action. If staff have any other concerns related to administering medicine to a particular child, the issue should be discussed with the parent, if appropriate, or with a health professional attached to the school.

Staff must complete and sign the form 'school record of the administration of medication' each time they give medicine to a child. School staff involved in the

administration of medicines will receive training and advice from health professionals.

Training for all staff will be offered on a range of medical needs, including any resultant learning needs as and when appropriate. Details of all training will be recorded on the 'staff training record – administration of medication'.

School staff will undertake a risk assessment to ensure the safety of all participants in educational visits and to enable, as far as possible, all pupils to have access to all activities and areas of school life. No decision about a child with medical needs attending/not attending a school visit will be taken without prior consultation with parents/carers. The same will apply for residential visits and sufficient essential medicines and appropriate health care plans will be taken and controlled by the member of staff supervising the visit. If additional supervision is required for activities, eg swimming, we may request the assistance of the parent/carer.

Roles and responsibilities: parents/carers

At Kenninghall Primary School we expect parents/carers to administer medication to their children at home if at all possible. Where clinically possible, medicines should be prescribed in dose frequencies which enable them to be taken outside school hours. Medicines will only be administered at school when it would be detrimental to a child's health or school attendance not to do so.

No medication will be administered without prior written permission from the parents/carers including written medical authority if the medicine needs to be altered (eg crushing of tablets). A 'parent request for school to administer medication' form must be completed (see appendix 1).

It is the responsibility of parents/carers to:

- Inform the school of their child's medical needs.
- Provide any medication in a container clearly labelled with the following.
 - The child's name.
 - Name of medicine.
 - Dose and frequency of medication.
 - Any special storage arrangements.
- Collect and dispose of any medications held in school at the end of each term.
- Ensure that medicines have NOT passed the expiry date.

At the start of each school year, parents/carers should give the following information about their child's long-term medical needs. The information must be updated as and when required and at least annually.

- Details of pupil's medical needs.
- Medication including any side effects.
- Allergies.
- Name of GP/consultants.
- Special requirements, eg dietary needs, pre-activity precautions.

- What to do and who to contact in an emergency.
- Cultural and religious views regarding medical care.

Written permission from parents/carers will be required for pupils to self-administer medicine(s). A 'request to self-administer medication' form (see appendix 4) must be completed.

Carrying and storage of medicines

For safety reasons, pupils are not allowed to carry medication unless agreed on an individual basis. All other medicines must be handed into the administration office on entry to the school premises where it will be kept locked in the administration office and logged onto the school's file. Pupils must be made aware of where their medication will be stored. Teachers may store pupil's inhalers, which must be labelled with the pupil's name. Where children have been prescribed controlled drugs, staff must be made aware that these should be kept in safe custody. However, children could access them for self-medication if it is agreed that it is appropriate.

Children should know where their medicines are at all times and be able to access them immediately. Where relevant, they should know who holds the key to the storage facility. Medicines and devices such as asthma inhalers, blood glucose testing meters and adrenaline pens should always be readily available to children and not locked away. This is particularly important to consider when outside of school premises eg on school trips.

Monitoring and evaluation

The school will monitor and review the individual needs of pupils and administer medicines in order to meet the all-round needs of each child on an on-going basis. An annual report to governors of the administration of medicines throughout the school will be prepared and analysed by the headteacher to monitor the efficacy of this policy and it will be evaluated in the light of its findings.

Reviewing

The policy will be reviewed following the discussion by the governors of the annual report on administration of medicines and changed accordingly where necessary.

Next school review.....