



# Cardinal Heenan Catholic High School

## Managing Medicines Policy

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Last reviewed:	
Approved by Governing Body:	<i>A Tremarco</i>
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## **Introduction**

This document outlines the operational management and safety implications of medicines brought into Cardinal Heenan Catholic High School.

## **Linked Policies**

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- Health and Safety policy
- First Aid policy

The medicine in school policy is designed to:

- Ensure the safety of children in the school.
- Provide a framework that staff MUST follow to allow medicines to be brought into school for children.
- Set guidelines for staff medications. Legal Framework
- Disability Discrimination Act 1995: (as amended by the SEN and Disability Act 2001) makes it a requirement for schools not to unjustifiably discriminate against children with disabilities, including those with medical needs.
- Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999: School managers have a responsibility to ensure that safety measures are in place to cover the needs of all staff, visitors and children in the school. This may mean conducting risk assessments and making special provision for children with particular health needs.
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002: COSHH covers the use and storage of hazardous substances. Some medicines fall into this category.
- Medicines Act 1968: This covers all aspects of the supply and administration of medicines. It allows any adult to administer a medicine to a third party as long as they have consent and administration is in accordance with the prescriber's instruction. This includes the administration of some forms of injection (with appropriate training).
- Misuse of Drugs Act 1971: This act and its associated regulations cover the supply, administration and storage of controlled drugs. At times schools may have a child who has been prescribed a controlled drug.

## **Further information**

The DFES and Department of Health have jointly produced Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings, which can be downloaded from:

[www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/healthandsafety](http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/healthandsafety)

Note It should be noted that there is no legal duty that requires school staff to administer medicines but that we, at Cardinal Heenan Catholic High School, are willing to undertake this task to enable regular attendance, under the following conditions.

## **Policy and procedures**

This policy covers the following areas:

- Procedures for managing prescription medicines that need to be taken during the school day.
- Procedures for managing prescription medicines on trips and outings.
- Roles and responsibilities of staff managing and supervising the administration of medication.
- Responsibilities of parents in respect of their child's medical needs.
- The need for prior written agreement from parents before medicines can be administered.
- The circumstances in which non-prescription medicines can be administered.
- Policy on assisting children with long term and complex medical needs.
- Policy on children carrying and administering their own medication.
- Staff training.
- Record keeping.
- Safe storage.
- Access to emergency procedures.
- Risk assessment and management procedures.

## **Supply**

Before giving medication to any child you must have written agreement from the parents. This agreement should include the child's name, the name of the medication, the required dose and agreed time of administration. It should also be clear whether the medication is on-going or to be taken up until a particular date. Any possible side effects should be listed and/or the information leaflet that is normally supplied by the manufacturer made available. Parents should bring the medicine into school and hand it to an appropriate person, who should then record that it has been received. It is absolutely essential that you only accept medication that is in its original labelled container. It is good practice for the person receiving the medicine to check that the label indicates the name of the child, that the dose parents have stipulated coincides with the information detailed on the label and that the medicine is 'in date'. Where the medicine is in tablet or capsule form, they should if possible check the number provided.

## **Storage**

All medicine brought into Cardinal Heenan Catholic High School will be placed in the medical room. This room is to be kept locked at all times, unless a member of staff is working in the room – if you leave the room you must lock it. This room has a cabinet and a fridge – so medicine requiring refrigeration can be stored in the room. The First Aid Administrator(s) have responsibility for receiving / logging / storing / administering / checking parental consent for medicines. In the event they are not available [this duty falls to the head teacher](#). Medicines can be classed as substances hazardous to health and as such must be stored securely. It is also important to note that some need to be stored at particular temperatures or away from light. This information will be on the medicine label and in the manufacturer's information leaflet. Most medicines should be kept in a locked cupboard. The key should be kept safely, but children should know where their medication is and

who can access it. If medicine needs to be kept cool, then it should be placed in a fridge where children cannot freely access it. Store medicines in a labelled airtight container to keep them separate from food products. Some emergency medication such as adrenaline pens (for children who suffer from allergies) and asthma inhalers should not be locked away as children need quick access to these. You will need to make arrangements to ensure that only those for whom they are prescribed have access to them.

### **Administration**

As a general guideline before administering medication to a child the staff member should:

- Wash their hands
- Ensure that a drink is available if appropriate (some tablets can irritate and damage the throat and oesophagus if administered without a drink)
- Check the label on the medication: name of child, dose, route of administration (e.g. by mouth, into ear/eye, rubbed on the skin), any special instructions and expiry date. If there is any doubt about any procedure staff should not administer, but seek advice from parents or health professionals.

If a child refuses the medication, they must not be forced. Staff can try to encourage them or perhaps get someone else to try. Under no circumstances should you attempt to hide the medicine in food or drink, unless you have written permission from parents to do so. It is normally considered poor practice to give medicines covertly, although in rare cases where the health professionals judge that it is in the child's interests to do so, this is acceptable. Some children do find tablets difficult to swallow so may be given them, with their full knowledge, in, for example, a spoonful of jam. Even in these circumstances parents must give written instructions. As some medicines can react with certain foods it is advisable that they have sought advice from their pharmacist.

In most cases, whether it is a missed dose or a medicine given in error there will be no harm done. Parents should be contacted and the mistake explained to them. In the case of a missed dose, you may be able to give it at a later time. Where a dose has been given in error, it is important that the child is monitored for any reactions and medical advice sought if you are in any way concerned. Disposal Tablets and capsules are occasionally dropped on the floor or spat out. In these cases place the tablet in a labelled envelope and return it to the parents. In no circumstances should it be flushed down the toilet or thrown in the bin.

When a child leaves the school, ceases to need medication or if a medicine has passed its expiry date, return any that is unused to the parents. If this is not possible take it to a pharmacist for disposal.

### **Additional Notes on this policy at Cardinal Heenan Catholic High School**

Parents should keep children at home when they are acutely unwell. Medicines should only be taken to school where it would be detrimental to a child's health if it were not administered during the school day.

### **Prescription Medicines**

Prescription medicines only will be given in line with this Policy. Aspirin or ibuprofen will NOT be administered unless prescribed by a doctor. Parents are welcome to come in and give their child medicine if they wish.

## **Parental Responsibilities**

Children must not keep medicines anywhere in school. They must be taken to the Office at the start of the school day. Medicines must not be administered by the child. For medicines to be administered in school, they must be properly labelled with the name of the child, the required dose and the appropriate time at which they should be administered. Medicines are not accepted out of the container in which they were originally dispensed and must include the prescriber's instructions.

A parent/carer or guardian must complete the appropriate form, required under Health and Safety regulations, before medicines can be accepted into school.

## **Administration Staff Responsibilities**

Medicines required to be taken when a child is on a school trip will be administered by the designated lead or other designated person in accordance with the written instructions given by the parent on the appropriate form.

Medicines needing refrigeration will be kept in the refrigerator in the medical room in an airtight container, clearly labelled. When a child is given medicine he will first be asked his name and this name checked against the name on the medicine – even if the member of staff knows the child well.

The appropriate form, signed by the parent, must be checked for the time the medicine is required and the dosage. The record Book must be checked to ensure that another member of staff has not already administered the dose. If the administration of prescription medicines requires technical or medical knowledge, then individual training will be provided to staff from a qualified health professional.

## **Record Keeping**

The date, name and class of the child, the type and dose of the medicine and the time of administration of the medicine, will be recorded in the Record Book together with the initials of the administrator.

If on a school trip a record must be kept – please do not take the record book out of school (a photocopy of a blank page will be sufficient), this should be glued into the record book on return to school.

## **Long Term or Complex Medical Needs**

Consultation with the parent/guardian will need to take place prior to the administration of long term medication or complex medical needs e.g. if medication involved is beyond a tablet or spoonful. Specialist Nurses will be consulted if necessary.

A written description of the medical condition and needs will be produced by the school, having been provided by the parent, checked by the latter and issued to the Administrator and the Teaching Assistant at the start of the school year. A copy will be circulated to all staff and kept in a file in the medical room. These records will be updated annually termly.

An up to date list of all children with on-going medical conditions is kept in the medical room.

## **Emergency Procedures**

An ambulance will be called in all emergency situations. A child should not be taken to hospital in a staff car except in very exceptional circumstances. In the parent's absence, a member of staff will accompany the child to hospital and stay with the child until the parent arrives. Health professionals are responsible for any decisions on medical treatment when parents are not available.

## **Residential Trips**

Where children are staying away from home on a residential trip organised by the school, parents will be asked to sign a form giving permission for mild medication such as aspirin etc. antiseptic cream or lip salve, to be administered by staff if deemed necessary.

If a child requires any prescription medication during a trip the parents' consent must be gained separately in writing (even if the school already has consent for in school giving of the medicine), the parents / guardian and trip organiser should have a meeting before the trip and agree in writing:

- The child's name, the name of the medication, the required dose and agreed time of administration. It should also be clear whether the medication is ongoing or to be taken up until a particular date. Any possible side effects should be listed and/or the information leaflet that is normally supplied by the manufacturer made available.
- Parents should bring the medicine into school on the day of the trip departing and hand it to the trip leader, who should then record that it has been received.
- It is absolutely essential that medication is in its original labelled container.
- It is good practice for the person receiving the medicine to check that the label indicates the name of the child, that the dose parents have stipulated coincides with that detailed on the label and that the medicine is 'in date'. Where the medicine is in tablet or capsule form, they should check the number provided.
- The trip leader is responsible for checking with the parents that the correct quantity of medication has been provided.
- Whilst the school will do everything in its power to ensure it is promoting inclusion and equality for all, the final decision on whether a child with more complex medication needs goes on a residential trip rests with the head teacher, they will discuss this with the trip leader and the parents / guardians of the child at the stage of initial approval for the trip – in line with the schools educational visits policy.

## **Adult Medication**

It is clearly going to be necessary from time to time for members of staff, governors, volunteers and other visitors to bring medication, either prescription or not onto the school premises. This is perfectly normal and allowable. However, the person, be they staff, governor, volunteer or other visitor must ensure the medication is kept beyond the reach of children. Medication may be secured in the medical room like pupil's medication. It is not acceptable to leave medication in a location where a child could gain access to it, for example in a handbag or briefcase or in a desk draw. Please be sensitive when you are taking medication - consider what children may think if you take a pill / capsule or an injection in public.