

Oak Hill First School



Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions

PURPOSE

This policy sets out the circumstances in which we may administer medicines within school, and the procedures that we will follow.

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| Created | September 2022 |
| Next Review | September 2025 (within annual interim reviews by first aiders) |
| Summary of changes | Include the holding of emergency inhalers by the school. |

Approved By:



Head Teacher

Date October 22

This policy was compiled in consultation with First Aiders.

This document reflects national guidance: Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions: Statutory guidance for governing bodies of maintained schools and proprietors of academies in England, DfE Dec 2015 (2017 updated)

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1. Introduction

Most pupils will at some time have a medical condition that may affect their participation in school activities and for many this will be short-term. Other pupils have medical conditions that, if not properly managed, could limit their access to education. Most children with medical needs are able to attend school regularly and, with some support from the school, can take part in most normal school activities. Oak Hill First School is committed to ensuring that children with medical needs have the same right of access as other children.

There is no legal duty that requires schools and staff to administer medication, this is a voluntary role unless expressly stated within an individual's job description. However the 'duty of care' under which all staff operate extends to administering medication in exceptional circumstances. In our school setting we have a group of trained first aiders to cater for our typical needs.

2. The Role of Parents/Carers

Parents/carers should, wherever possible, administer or supervise the self-administration of medication to their children. This may be by spacing the doses so that they are not required within school hours, or by the parent/carer coming in to school at lunch time to administer the medication. However, this might not be practicable and in such a case parents/carer may make a request for medication to be administered to the child at school.

If medicine needs to be administered during school time, then a parent or carer must bring it to the school office and fill in the Administration of Medication Permission and Record form (Appendix 1). Medication must not be given to the class teacher, or brought into school by the child themselves. If medication is for a short term condition, any remaining medication must be collected from the office by a parent or carer at the end of the school day.

3. Prescription Medication

Prescription medicines should be administered at home wherever possible, for example medicines that need to be taken 3 times a day can usually be taken before school, after school and at bed time. Parents are encouraged to ask the GP to whether this is possible. Prescription medicines will only be administered by the school where it would be detrimental to a child's health if it were not done.

Medicines should always be provided in the original container as dispensed by a pharmacist and include the prescriber's instructions for administration. The exception to this is insulin which must still be in date, but will generally be available to school inside an insulin pen or a pump, rather than in its original container. We never accept medicines that have been taken out of the container nor make changes to dosages on parental instruction.

In all cases it is necessary to check:

- Name of child
- Name of medicine
- Dosage
- Written instructions provided by prescriber
- Expiry date

An Administration of Medicine Permission (Appendix 1) must be completed and signed by the parent / carer. No medication will be given without the parent's written consent.

Prescribed medication, other than emergency medication, will be kept in the Medical Room, either in the cupboard or the refrigerator as appropriate. All emergency medicines (asthma inhalers, epi-pens etc.) should be kept in the child's classroom and be readily available. A second Epi-pen for each child who requires one will be kept in the locked cupboard of the First Aid Room, in a box clearly labelled with the child's name and photograph. The key is held in the main office.

4. Long Term Medical Needs

It is important for us to have sufficient information regarding the medical condition of any pupil with long term medical needs. The school will draw up a health care plan for such pupils, involving the parents and the relevant health professionals. Refer to the "Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions Policy" for more information.

Appropriate training will be arranged for the administration of any specialist medication (e.g. adrenaline via an epipen, Buccal midazolam, insulin etc.) Staff should not administer such medicines until they have been trained to do so.

5. Controlled Drugs

Controlled drugs, such as Ritalin, are controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act. Therefore it is imperative that controlled drugs are strictly managed between the school and parents. Ideally controlled drugs are only brought in on a daily basis by parents, but certainly no more than a week's supply and the amount of medication handed over to the school should always be recorded.

Controlled drugs are stored in a locked non portable container, stored in the safe and only specific named staff allowed access to it. Each time the drug is administered it is recorded, including if the child refused to take it. If pupils refuse to take medication, school staff do not force them to do so. The school informs the child's parents as a matter of urgency. If necessary, the school will call the emergency services. The person administering the controlled drug monitors that the drug has been taken. Passing a controlled drug to another child is an offence under the Misuse of Drugs Act.

As with all medicines any unused medication is recorded as being returned back to the parent when no longer required. If this is not possible it should be returned to the dispensing pharmacist. It should not be thrown away.

6. Non Prescription Medication

We avoid administering non-prescription medicine.

A child under 16 should never be given aspirin-containing medicine, unless prescribed by a doctor.

7. Administering Medicines

Medicines will only be administered by members of staff who have been trained in the safe administration of medicines. This will usually be a first aider with responsibilities of administering medicine, but in their absence another appropriately trained first aider may carry it out. Appropriate training will be arranged for the administration of any specialist medication (e.g. adrenaline via an epipen, Buccal midazolam, insulin etc.) Staff will not administer such medicines until they have been trained to do so. A list of all staff trained in administration of medicines will be maintained by the Deputy Head. The SENCo will maintain a record of staff trained in specialist medication for children with Health Care Plans.

When a member of staff administers medicine, they will check the child's Administration of Medication Permission and Record form against the medication, to ensure that the dose and timing are correct. They will then administer the medicine as required, and record this on the form. For long-term medication, an Administration of Medication Sheet (Appendix 2) will be used as necessary.

8. Emergency Inhalers

In line with "Guidance on the use of emergency salbutamol inhalers in schools" March 2015, the school will keep emergency reliever (blue) inhalers for the emergency use of children whose own inhaler is not available for any reason. They will be stored in the Medical Room, along with appropriate spacers. Parents must sign a "Consent form: use of emergency salbutamol inhaler" (Appendix 4) to consent to their child being allowed to use the emergency inhaler. These will be kept in the Asthma file in the Medical Room.

9. Self Management

It is important that as children get older they should be encouraged to take responsibility and manage their own medication. This should be clearly set out in the child's health care plan in agreement with the parents, bearing in mind the safety of other pupils.

Staff should be aware of the need for asthmatics to carry medication with them (or for staff to take appropriate action). Children should know where their medicines are stored.

10. Refusing medication

If a child refuses to take medication staff should not force them to do so, but note this in the records and inform parents of the refusal. If the refusal leads to a medical emergency, the school will call the emergency services and inform the parents.

11. Offsite visits

We encourage all pupils including those with medical needs to participate in offsite visits. All staff supervising visits should be aware of any medical needs and relevant emergency procedures. Where necessary, individual risk assessments will be completed. A member of staff who is trained to administer any specific medication will accompany the pupil and ensure that the appropriate medication is taken on the visit. Inhalers must be taken for all children who suffer from asthma.

Travel Sickness - Tablets can be given with written consent from a parent but the child's name, dosage, time of dose and any possible side effects (the child must have had the travel sickness preventative at home before the trip in case of side effects) should be clearly marked on the container, which must be the original packaging. Parents will need to complete an Administration of Medication Permission and Record form.

Residential visits – All medicines which a child needs to take should be handed to the First Aider who will be administering the medication whilst on the visit. The only exception are asthma inhalers, which should be kept by the child themselves. The parents will sign a consent form for any medicines which they need to take during the visit, plus consent of emergency treatment to be administered – see example form in Appendix 3.

12. Disposal of Medicines

The First Aider with responsibility for administration of medicines will check all medicines kept in school each term to ensure that they have not exceeded their expiry date. Parents/carers will be notified of any that need to be replaced. Parents/carers are responsible for ensuring that date-expired medicines are returned to a pharmacy for safe disposal. If parents do not collect all medicines, they should be taken to a local pharmacy for safe disposal.

Sharps boxes should always be used for the disposal of needles. There is a sharps box in the First Aid area. If any child requires regular injections (eg. Insulin), they will have their own sharps box which can be taken offsite with them on trips etc. The parents will be notified when the box is almost full so that they can bring in a new box and take the full box for disposal.

13. Confidentiality and Retention of Records.

Under the Data Protection Act medical documents are deemed sensitive information. The information in the Care Plan and/or related medical information where a Care Plan is not necessary, needs to be disseminated to relevant staff but balanced with the need to keep confidential information secure. Care Plans must not be displayed in a public place, e.g. staff room, because of the sensitive information they contain unless there is a clear, justified need to do so and the parent/carer has also given their explicit written consent for this.

The statutory retention period for Early Years records is two years. For schools, the recommended retention for these records is the date of birth of the child being given/taking the medicine plus 25 years. This allows for records to be kept as evidence for litigation should the child on reaching 18 years old feel this is something they want to pursue.

Appendix 1 - Administration of Medication Permission



PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION

Please can you give the following prescription medication at 12 noon:

Child's name: Class:

Name of medication:Dose:

Date:

Signed:
(Parent/Guardian)

Appendix 3 – Example Consent Form for Residential Visit

PARENTAL CONSENT FOR TRIP TO

Date of visit:

I AGREE TO _____ TAKING PART IN THE VISIT AND AM HAPPY FOR THEM TO PARTICIPATE ON THE ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED. I ACKNOWLEDGE THE NEED FOR MY CHILD TO BEHAVE.

MEDICAL

Has your child got any condition requiring medical treatment? YES/NO

Please list below:

Is your child allergic to any medication? YES/NO

Please list below:

I agree to my son/daughter receiving medication as instructed and any emergency, dental, medical or surgical treatment considered necessary by the medical authorities present. I understand the extent and limitations of the insurance cover provided.

CONTACT NUMBERS

Work: _____ Home: _____

Home address: _____

Name of family doctor: _____ Telephone no: _____

Address: _____

Alternative emergency contact:

Name: _____ Telephone no: _____

Address: _____

Signed (Parent/Carer): _____ Date: _____

Oak Hill First School

CONSENT TO ADMINISTER MEDICINES

Name of child: _____

Address: _____

Date of birth: _____

Doctor's name: _____

Non-Prescribed Medicines: _____

Prescribed medicines:

| NAME OF MEDICINE | TIME TO BE TAKEN | HOW MUCH | ROUTE |
|------------------|------------------|----------|-------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Signed (Parent/Carer) _____ Dated: _____

Appendix 4 – Consent form: Use of Emergency Salbutamol Inhaler



**CONSENT FORM:
USE OF EMERGENCY SALBUTAMOL INHALER**

Child showing symptoms of asthma / having asthma attack

- 1. I can confirm that my child has been diagnosed with asthma / has been prescribed an inhaler [delete as appropriate].
- 2. My child has a working, in-date inhaler, clearly labelled with their name, which they keep in school.
- 3. In the event of my child displaying symptoms of asthma, and if their inhaler is not available or is unusable, I consent for my child to receive salbutamol from emergency inhaler held by the school for such emergencies.

Signed:..... Date:.....

Name (print):.....

Child's name:.....

Class:.....

Parent's address and contact details:

.....
.....
.....

Telephone:.....

E-mail:.....