



# Administration of Medication Policy

## Rationale:

Students attending Kew Primary may need medication to control a health condition. It is necessary that teachers (as part of their duty of care) assist students, where appropriate to take their medication. At all times the school will ensure the students privacy and confidentiality.

## Aims:

- To administer first aid to children when in need in a competent and timely manner.
- To communicate children's health problems to parents when considered necessary.
- To provide supplies and facilities to cater for the administering of first aid.
- To maintain a sufficient number of staff members trained with a Level 2 First Aid qualification.

## Implementation:

- Our school has an administration of medication procedure, Medication Management Procedures (see Appendix A), which outlines the school's processes and protocols regarding the management of prescribed and non-prescribed medication for students at this school.
- The student's parent/carer may wish to supply medication to be administered at the school. To minimise the quantity of medication held at the school, it should be considered if the medication can be taken outside of the school day, for example medication required three times a day may be able to be taken before and after school, and before bed.
- Students will generally need supervision of their medication and other aspects of health care management. The school, in consultation with parents/carers/approved carers, and the student's medical/health practitioner, may consider the age and circumstances by which the student could be permitted to self-administer their medication; however this may only occur in very rare circumstances.
- All medications, including prescription and non-prescription medication, including analgesics, such as paracetamol and aspirin, and other medications which can be purchased over the counter without a prescription, are to be administered by school personnel following the processes and protocols set out in the Medication Management Procedures (see Appendix A) of the school. In order to ensure that the interests of staff, students and parents/carers approved carers are not compromised, medication will only be administered with explicit written permission from parent/carers approved persons, or in the case of an emergency, with permission of the school nurse or a medical practitioner.
- When administering prescription medication to students on behalf of parent/carers, the written advice received must be supported by specific written instructions on the original medication bottle or container, such as that on the pharmacist's label noting the name of the student, dosage and time to be administered.
- The principal (or nominee) administering medication needs to ensure that the correct student:
  - has the right medication
  - has the right dose
  - has his/her correct medication and correct dosage
  - has the medication at the right time
- The principal (or nominee) must also ensure that they:
  - Have permission to administer medication which has been received from the child's parents/carers/approved persons or a medical practitioner

- record observations post administration
- The principal or their nominee will inform teachers of those students in their charge who require medication to be administered at the school. The teachers may be required to release students at prescribed times so they may receive their medications from the principal or nominee.
- The school register will be completed by the person administering the taking of medication and records are kept at school.
- The school in consultation with parents/carers and the student's medical/health practitioner will consider the age and circumstances by which the student could be permitted to self-administer their medication. Ideally, medication to be self-administered by the student should be stored by the school. However, where immediate access is required by the student, such as in the case of asthma, anaphylaxis, or diabetes, medication must be stored in an easily accessible location.

Note: It is at the principal's discretion to agree for the student to carry and manage his/her own medication.

#### LINKS AND APPENDICES

Links which are connected with this policy are:

- DET Medication Policy
- DET Anaphylaxis Policy
- DET Health Support Planning Policy
- Asthma Victoria Webpage: <https://www.asthmaaustralia.org.au/>

Appendices which are connected with this policy are:

- Appendix A: Medication Management Procedures

### **Evaluation:**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three year review cycle.

This policy was ratified by School Council - September 2016

# Appendix A

## Medication Management Procedures

The school has developed procedures for the appropriate storage and administration of prescribed and non-prescribed medicines to students by school staff with reference to individual student medical information.

### 1. Student Information

Parents and/or carers/approved persons are required to keep the school informed of students' current medical contact details and any current medical conditions and appropriate medical history.

Every student who has a medical condition or illness has an individual management plan that is attached to the student's records. This management plan is provided by the student's parents/carers/approved persons and contains details of:

- the usual medical treatment needed by the student at school or on school activities
- the medical treatment and action needed if the student's condition deteriorates
- the name, address and telephone numbers for an emergency contact and the student's doctor

### 2. Administration of prescribed oral medication

Parents/carers / approved persons are required to inform the principal in writing of any prescribed medication that students need to take in school hours. Where medication is required in spontaneous situations, detailed administration instructions should be provided, for example in the case of asthma attacks. Daily administration of medication forms are available from the administration office and should be completed and signed by the parent/guardian.

Certain students are capable of taking their own medication (usually tablets) while other students will need assistance from teachers. This information will be recorded on the individual student's management plan.

All medication sent to school is to be administered by school staff and, parents/guardians are required to supply medication in a container that gives the name of the medication, name of the student, the dose, and the time it is to be given. Where medication for more than one day is supplied, it is to be locked in the storage cupboard or first aid fridge in the school administration office.

### 3. Administration of analgesics

Analgesics are only to be given following permission of parents/carers/approved persons and are to be issued by a first aid officer who maintains a record to monitor student intake.