



Administering Medicines Policy

This policy has been structured based upon the guidance provided by information from the Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions: Statutory guidance for governing bodies of maintained schools and proprietors of academies in England (December 2015) and Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings – DfE 2014.

Aims

1. To provide clear procedural guidance on the Administering of Medicines and record keeping at Caister Junior School.
2. To ensure that the children and young people in our school are safe and are able to attend school regularly.
3. To enable children and young people with medical conditions to be included in the school curriculum and other activities.
4. To support children and young people with complex medical conditions and or long term medical needs.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the school's safeguarding policy and child protection procedures. Arrangements have been made for the following:

- managing prescription medicines that may need to be taken during the day;
- managing prescription medicines on trips and outings, including school transport;
- the safe storage of medicines and accurate record keeping;
- procedures for access to medicines during emergency situations;
- adhering to risk management procedures involving medicines.

Caister Junior School is responsible for adhering to Individual Healthcare Plans, maintaining and monitoring records and demonstrating that children are provided with appropriate medical support for which training has been given by qualified personnel. It should be noted that failure to adhere to Individual Healthcare Plans could affect insurance cover and increase liability.

The school will follow First Aid principles and seek to act in the interest of preserving life when in the event of an emergency. The school will accept written notice from parents/carers that relate to particular medical or religious issues that might affect the manner in which emergency cases are managed.

Appropriate forms will be used to support the management and administering of medicines. We understand that the key information requested must not be changed as it would affect any potential insurance claims for medical malpractice.

Responsibilities

Parents

It must be remembered that the prime responsibility for a child's/young person's health rests with the parents/carers. Medicines should only be administered in school if a child has a diagnosed long term medical condition, however this can only be done once staff have the appropriate training. It is important, therefore, if there are any changes to your child's health that school is informed as soon as possible so your child is able to fully participate in the school day. This is important because staff will not be able to administer medicines until they have received training and this may mean you have to make arrangements to come to school to administer the medicine yourself or keep your child at home longer than is really necessary.

If your child is prescribed medicine, such as antibiotics, by their GP then three daily doses should be administered - before school, after school and in the evening – there is no need for these medicines to be brought into school. If the GP prescribes 4 daily doses please request that this is adjusted to 3 doses and if this is not possible please ensure that your child is well enough to be at school. Only in exceptional circumstances (e.g. 4 prescribed doses per day) will medicines be administered by school staff.

Only in exceptional circumstances will non-prescribed medicines be administered in school, wherever possible the dosage must be administered outside of the school day. Parents are asked to deliver medicines to school in the original container(s) and ensuring that the medicine is not out of date and that it has been stored correctly. All medicines must be marked with the following information clearly indicated:

- the child's name on the medicine;
- when the medicine should be given;
- the prescribed dose and pharmacist's instruction, e.g., after meals.

To administer medicine in school requires two members of staff, staff cannot be directed to administer medicine, they must volunteer to do so, unfortunately therefore the school cannot guarantee that medicines will always be administered and you may be asked to make alternative arrangements. The school staff will not take responsibility for reminding pupils to take the prescribed medicine. The administration of medicines is not a service which the school is obliged to take.

ALL MEDICINE ADMINISTERED IN SCHOOL WILL ONLY BE DONE SO WITH THE SIGNED AUTHORITY OF A PARENT OR CARER. Parents must notify the school immediately (in writing) of any changes or alteration to a prescription requiring adjustment to be made to any previous arrangement about medicines for their child.

Head of Central Services

The Head of Central Services will make appropriate arrangements for medicines to be stored safely in a locked cabinet. Medicines must be kept in the container supplied which must be clearly labelled with the name of the child and instruction for usage. The Head of Central Services will make suitable arrangements in partnership with parents that enable children to maintain a prescribed course of treatment. They will liaise with staff/parents/nominated support so that recommended medical treatment can be sustained, and that those people are appropriately trained to administer medication. Staff will not be directed to administer medicines; however, they can choose to volunteer to do so if they so wish. All staff will be advised to refer to advice from their professional associations before volunteering to administer medicines.

The Head of Central Services or SENDCo will ensure that all staff who need to know are aware of a child's condition. They will also ensure that sufficient trained staff are available to implement the policy and deliver against all individual healthcare plans, including in contingency and emergency situations. This may involve recruiting a member of staff for this purpose. They should also make sure that the school is appropriately insured and that staff are aware that they are insured to support pupils in this way. They will contact the school nursing service in the case of any child who has a medical condition that may require support at school but who has not yet been brought to the attention of the school nurse.

Together with school Governors, the Head of Central Services will review this policy at appropriate intervals, in line with local advice, so that the well-being of children and young people and their health is safeguarded. The Head of Central Services will ensure that all staff and parents/carers are aware of this policy and the procedures for dealing with medical needs at Caister Junior School.

Governing Body

Governing bodies must make arrangements to support pupils with medical conditions in school, this should be done in line with Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions: Statutory guidance for governing bodies of maintained schools and proprietors of academies in England (December 2015) and Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings – DfE 2014.

School Staff

Staff will not be directed to administer medicines; however, they can choose to volunteer to do so if they so wish. All staff will be advised to refer to advice from their professional associations before volunteering to administer medicines. They will be appropriately trained and insured for the administration of medicines.

Child or young person refuses, or not well enough to take medicines

If a child refuses to take medicine as prescribed, the records must state this clearly and the parents/carer must be informed immediately. Children/young people will not be forced to receive medicine if they do not wish to do so.

If a child or young person is ill/injured and therefore unable to receive the agreed prescribed medication, the person designated to supervise the taking of medicine will consult with parents/carers immediately and advise the Head of Central Services of their actions. If the child vomits or has diarrhoea soon after receiving medication, parents must be contacted so that they can seek further medical advice.

Self Medication

In some cases it might be appropriate that children/ young people self-administer medicines, e.g., inhalers, EpiPens. The school will encourage those with long term medical conditions to take responsibility for administering their own medication but continue to ask staff to supervise so that the appropriate records can be complete for safeguarding purposes.

Storage of Medicines

Medicines will be stored in a locked medicine cupboard in the school office, the key is kept in a locked cupboard. The school will ensure that all medicines held are not out of date and that they are returned to parents routinely after use. Some medicines (insulin, liquid antibiotics) may need to be kept in a fridge but must not be frozen. These medicines must be placed in suitable additional sealed/airtight containers such as a Tupperware box and marked 'medicines'. Medicine cabinets will be supervised closely and emptied at least once each term.

Some medicines, such as inhalers, need to be close at hand, and dependent on the age of the child and severity of their condition, will be kept by the child or in an easily accessible place in the classroom. A note of children with medical conditions is kept in the register to inform all staff along with information regarding medicines and where they are stored.

Emergency Arrangements

Care is taken to ensure that all children and young people are safe. The school has four 'Paediatric First Aid' qualified first aiders. Children and young people with life threatening medical conditions or that require close monitoring/supervision will have Individual Healthcare Plans issued by Health professionals that provide contact details for emergency situations, e.g., anaphylaxis, diabetes, or epilepsy. Asthma can also be life threatening. All cases deemed 'complex' or 'serious' medical conditions have emergency contact details held in the school office.

Individual Healthcare Plans

Individual healthcare plans help to ensure that the school effectively support pupils with medical conditions. They provide clarity about what needs to be done, when and by whom. They are likely to be helpful in the majority of cases, and especially for long-term and complex medical conditions, although not all children will require one. The level of detail within the plans will depend on the complexity of the child's condition and the degree of support needed. This is important because different children with the same health condition may require very different support.

Individual healthcare plans may be initiated by a member of school staff, the school nurse or another healthcare professional involved in providing care to the child. Plans will be drawn up with input from such professionals eg. a specialist nurse, who will be able to determine the level of detail needed in consultation with the school, the child and their parents. These will be reviewed at least annually or earlier if the child's needs change. They will be developed in the context of assessing and managing risks to the child's education, health and social well-being and to minimise disruption. Where the child has a special educational need, the individual healthcare plan should be linked to the child's statement or EHC plan where they have one.

In identifying what information plans records include the following will be considered:

- the medical condition, its triggers, signs, symptoms and treatments
- the pupil's resulting needs, including medication (its side-effects and its storage) and other treatments, dose, time, facilities, equipment, testing, dietary requirements and environmental issues eg. crowded corridors, travel time between lessons
- specific support for the pupil's educational, social and emotional needs – for example, how absences will be managed, requirements for extra time to complete exams, use of rest periods or additional support in catching up with lessons, counselling sessions
- the level of support needed, (some children will be able to take responsibility for their own health needs), including in emergencies. If a child is self-managing their own medication, this should be clearly stated with appropriate arrangements for monitoring
- who will provide this support, their training needs, expectations of their role and confirmation of proficiency to provide support for the child's medical condition from a healthcare professional
- who in the school needs to be aware of the child's condition and the support required
- written permission from parents and the Head of Central Services at your school for medication to be administered by a member of staff, or self-administered by individual pupils during school hours
- separate arrangements or procedures required for school trips or other school activities outside of the normal school timetable that will ensure the child can participate eg. risk assessments
- where confidentiality issues are raised by the parent/child, the designated individuals to be entrusted with information about the child's condition
- what to do in an emergency, including whom to contact, and contingency arrangements Off-site activities/school trips

All arrangements for medicines, including the storage of medicines, Individual Healthcare Plans, and Risk Management programmes will apply for any off-site activities or school trips.

A member of staff will be appointed to ensure there are suitable arrangements for storage, and recording of the medicines when assessing any risks associated for the trip, particularly for those children and young people with long term or complex health conditions.

All off-site activities will be evaluated in terms of proximity and accessibility to emergency services and any implications for those with short or long term medical conditions before receiving approval to go ahead from the Head of Central Services/Governors Equality Statement Caister Junior School is mindful of its Equality Duties; respecting religious belief and ensuring that support is provided for those with disability needs that might be affected by this policy. Where there are language or communication issues, and to avoid any misunderstanding, the parents/carers and Head of Central Services will agree an appropriate course of action. The Head of Central Services will engage interpreters or signers when required to ensure that full understanding of a child's medicine needs are determined accurately.

Equal Opportunities Statement

Our policy aims to respond to the diversity of children's cultures, faiths and family backgrounds.

Reviewed by governing body
July 2020

Next Review:
July 2022