

## St Daigh's N S Administration of Medicines Policy

### **Introduction:**

The policy was recently reviewed through a collaborative school process and was ratified by the Board of Management (BoM) on the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

### **Rationale:**

The policy as outlined was put in place to;

- Clarify areas of responsibility
- To give clear guidance about situations where it is not appropriate to administer medicines
- To indicate the limitations to any requirements which may be notified to teachers and school staff
- To outline procedures to deal with a pupil with a nut allergy in our school
- Safeguard school staff that are willing to administer medication
- Protect against possible litigation.

### **Relationship to School Ethos:**

The school promotes positive home-school contacts, not only in relation to the welfare of children, but in relation to all aspects of school life. This policy is in keeping with the school ethos through the provision of a safe, secure and caring school environment and the furthering of positive home-school links.

### **Aims of this Policy:**

The aims and objectives of the policy can be summarised as follows;

- Minimise health risks to children and staff on the school premises
- Fulfil the duty of the BoM in relation to Health and Safety requirements
- Provide a framework within which medicines may be administered in cases of emergency or in instances where regularised administration has been agreed with parents/guardians

### **In –School Procedures:**

Parents/guardians are required to complete a Health/Medication form when enrolling their child/ren in the school. No teacher is obliged to administer medicine or drugs to a pupil and any teacher willing to do so works under the controlled guidelines outlined below.

- Prescribed medicines will only be administered after parents/guardians of the pupil concerned have written to the BoM requesting the Board to authorise a member of the teaching staff to do so. Under no circumstance will non-prescribed medicines be either stored or administered in the school. The Board will seek indemnity from parents/guardians in respect of any liability arising from the administration of medicines
- The school generally advocates the self administration (e.g. inhalers) of medicine under the supervision of a responsible adult, exercising the standard of care of a prudent parent/guardian. No medicines are stored on the school premises **EXCEPT** for a small quantity of prescription drugs which are stored in the locked Medical Cabinet opposite the school office, for emergency use, and if parents/guardians have requested storage facilities. Parents/guardians are responsible for the provision of medication and notification of change of dosage and date of expiry.
- Teachers have a professional duty to safeguard the health and safety of pupils, both when they are authorised to be on the school premises and when they are engaged in authorised school activities elsewhere
- The Board of Management requests parents to ensure that teachers be made aware in writing of any medical condition suffered by any child in their class.

- This does not imply a duty upon teachers personally to undertake the administration of medicines or drugs.

### **Long Term Health Problems**

Where there are children with long-term health problems in school, proper and clearly understood arrangements for the administration of medicines must be made with the Board of Management. This is the responsibility of the parents/guardians. It would include measures such as self administration, administration under parental supervision or administration by school staff.

### **Life Threatening Condition**

Where children are suffering from life threatening conditions, parents/guardians must clearly outline, in writing, what should be done in a particular emergency situation, with particular reference to what may be a risk to the child (Appendix 3). If emergency medication is necessary, arrangements must be made with the Board of Management. A letter of indemnity must be signed by the parents in respect of any liability that may arise regarding the administration of medication.

### **Guidelines for the Administration of Medicines**

1. The parents/guardians of the pupil with special medical needs must inform the Board of Management in writing of the condition, giving all the necessary details of the condition. The request must also contain written instruction of the procedure to be followed in administering the medication. (Appendix 1, 2 or 3)
2. Parents/guardians must write requesting the Board of Management to authorise the administration of the medication in school
3. Where specific authorisation has been given by the Board of Management for the administration of medicine, the medicines must be brought to school by the parent/guardian/designated adult
4. A written record of the date and time of administration must be kept by the person administering it (Appendix 4)
5. Parents/Guardians are responsible for ensuring that emergency medication is supplied to the school and replenished when necessary
6. Emergency medication must have exact details of how it is to be administered
7. The BoM must inform the school's insurers accordingly
8. Parents/guardians are further required to indemnify the Board of Management and members of the staff in respect of any liability that may arise regarding the administration of prescribed medicines in school
9. All correspondence related to the above are kept in the school.

### **Medicines**

- Non-prescribed medicines will neither be stored nor administered to pupils in school
- Teachers/SNAs in the school will only administer prescribed medication when arrangements have been put in place as outlined above
- Arrangements for the storage of certain emergency medicines, which must be readily accessible at all times, must be made with the Principal. Emergency medicines are stored in the locked medical safe opposite the school office. The key of which is hung on a cup hook high over medical safe.
- A teacher/SNA must not administer any medication without the specific authorisation of the Board of Management
- The prescribed medicine must be self-administered if possible, under the supervision of an authorised Teacher/SNA if not the parent/guardian.
- No teacher/SNA can be required to administer medicine or drugs to a pupil
- In an emergency situation, qualified medical assistance will be secured at the earliest opportunity and the parents/guardians contacted
- It is not recommended that children keep medication in bags, coats, etc.
- Where possible, the parents/guardians should arrange for the administration of prescribed medicines outside of school hours.

**The following guidelines are in place with regard to pupils with a Nut Allergy**

1. Staff dealing with the pupil do not eat nuts of any item with nut trace. This also applies to egg allergies.
2. St Daigh's N S is a nut free zone. *Cf St Daigh's N S Healthy Eating Policy*
3. Advise children not to offer or exchange foods, sweets, lunches etc.
4. If going off-site, medication must be carried.

**In the event the pupil comes in contact with peanuts/eggs**

1. Administer 5ml Zirtec/Sudafed or other antihistamine immediately. (This medication will have been supplied by parent/guardian and stored in the Medicine Cabinet opposite the school office.) It is important that the pupil be kept calm to allow him to breathe calmly as he will experience discomfort and sensation of his/her throat swelling. If possible (s)he needs to drink as much water as possible. These steps should allow him/her to recover fully.
2. Only in the event of anaphylactic shock should the pen be administered. Pen is stored in locked Medical Cabinet. Before or immediately after Pen has been administered, an ambulance must be called.

**Indicators of shock include**

Symptoms of shock can include, wheezing, severe difficulty breathing and gastrointestinal symptoms such as abdominal pain, cramps, vomiting and diarrhoea.

**School Doctor: Group Practice Surgery Carrickmacross**

**Contact Number: 042 9663233 (This surgery is very slow to answer the phone, best ring 999/112)**

**Carrickmacross Primary Care Centre: Oriel Road, Carrickmacross A 81C642**

**Contact: 042 9674800**

**NEDOC: 1850 777911/041 6850750 (Drogheda) 6pm – 8am**

**Emergency: Ambulance 999 or 112**

**Louth County Hospital Minor Injuries Clinic: 042 9385424**

**Emergencies:**

In the event of an emergency, teachers should do no more than is necessary and appropriate to relieve extreme distress or prevent further and otherwise irreparable harm. Qualified medical treatment should be secured in emergencies at the earliest opportunity.

Where no qualified medical treatment is available, and circumstances warrant immediate medical attention, designated staff members may take a child into Accident and Emergency without delay. Parents/guardians will be contacted simultaneously.

In addition, parents/guardians must ensure that teachers are made aware in writing of any medical condition which their child is suffering from. For example, children who are epileptics, diabetics etc. may have a seizure at any time and teachers must be made aware of symptoms in order to ensure that treatment may be given by appropriate persons.

Written details are required from the parents/guardians outlining the child's personal details, name of medication, prescribed dosage, whether the child is capable of self-administration and the circumstances under which the medication is to be given. Parents/guardians should also outline clearly proper procedures for children who require medication for life threatening conditions.

The school maintains an up-to-date register of contact details of all parents/guardians including emergency numbers. This is updated in September of each new school year.

**First Aid Boxes:**

A full medical kit is taken when children are engaged in out of school activities such as tours, football/hurling games and athletic activities.

First aid bags are kept on the windows in school corridors. They contain anti-septic wipes, anti-septic bandages, cotton wool pads etc. A more comprehensive first aid box is located in the school office.

**General Recommendations:**

We recommend that any child who shows signs of illness should be kept at home; requests from parents/guardians to keep their children in at lunch break are not encouraged. A child too sick to play with peers should not be in school.

**Roles and Responsibilities:**

The BoM has overall responsibility for the implementation and monitoring of the school policy on Administration of Medication. The Principal is the day to day manager of routines contained in the policy with the assistance of all staff members. The maintenance and replenishment of First Aid Boxes is a duty of SNA Linda Carey, a fully trained nurse.

**Success Criteria:**

The effectiveness of the school policy in its present form is measured by the following criteria;

- Compliance with Health and Safety legislation
- Maintaining a safe and caring environment for children
- Positive feedback from parents/guardians/teachers/staff
- Ensuring the primary responsibility for administering remains with parents/guardians

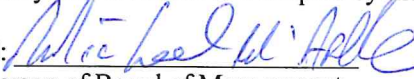

**Implementation:**

This revised policy will be implemented from 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

**Ratification and Review of Policy**

This policy will be reviewed by the Board of Management once in every school year. It will be reviewed in the event of incidents or on the enrolment of child/children with significant medical conditions, but no later than March 2024.

This policy was reviewed and adopted by the Board of Management on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Signed:  Signed:   
Chairperson of Board of Management      Principal

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> March

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Date of next review: March 2024 or earlier if required.

**St Daigh's N S Administration of Medicines Policy**  
**Appendix 1**  
**Medical Condition and Administration of Medicines**

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contacts**

1) Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

2) Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

3) Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

4) Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Doctor: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Medical Condition: \_\_\_\_\_

Prescription Details:

\_\_\_\_\_

Storage details: \_\_\_\_\_

Dosage required:

\_\_\_\_\_

Is the child to be responsible for taking the prescription him/herself?

\_\_\_\_\_

What Action is required

\_\_\_\_\_

I/We request that the Board of Management authorise the taking of Prescription Medicine during the school day as it is absolutely necessary for the continued well being of my/our child. I/We understand that we must inform the school/Teacher of any changes of medicine/dose/expiry date in writing and that we must inform the school/Teacher each year of the prescription/medical condition. I/We understand that no school personnel have any advanced medical training and we indemnify the Board from any liability that may arise from the administration of the medication.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**St Daigh's N S Administration of Medicines Policy**  
**Appendix 2**  
**Allergy Details**

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contacts**

1) Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

2) Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

3) Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

4) Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Allergy: \_\_\_\_\_

Reaction Level: \_\_\_\_\_

Medication: \_\_\_\_\_

Storage details: \_\_\_\_\_

Dosage required: \_\_\_\_\_

Administration Procedure (When, Why, How)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**St Daigh's N S Administration of Medicines Policy  
Appendix 3**

**Emergency Procedures**

In the event of \_\_\_\_\_ displaying any symptoms of his/her medical difficulty, the following procedures should be followed.

Symptoms: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Procedure:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

***Dial 999/112 and call emergency services.  
Contact Parents***

**St Daigh's N S Administration of Medicines Policy**  
**Appendix 4**  
**Record of Administration of Medicines**

Pupil's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Medical Condition: \_\_\_\_\_

Medication: \_\_\_\_\_

Dosage Administered: \_\_\_\_\_

Administration Details (When, Why, How)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_