



WINDHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

FLYING HIGH FOR EXCELLENCE



Managing Medicines Policy 2024 / 2025



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Role:	Chair of Governors
Signed:	
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Managing Medicines Policy

Windhill Primary School is an inclusive school; we recognise that children with medical needs have the same rights of admission to a school or setting as other children. We are committed to ensuring that children with medical needs receive proper care and support enabling them to participate in all activities appropriate to their own abilities.

Most children will at some time have short-term medical needs, perhaps entailing finishing a course of medicine such as antibiotics. Some children however have longer term medical needs and may require medicines on a long-term basis to keep them well, for example children with well controlled epilepsy or cystic fibrosis. Others may require medicines in particular circumstances, such as children with severe allergies who may need an adrenaline injection. Children with severe asthma may have a daily need for inhalers and additional doses during an attack. Most children with medical needs can attend school regularly and take part in normal activities, sometimes with support. However some staff may need to take extra care in supervising some activities to make sure that these children and others are not put at risk.

Parents/carers have the prime responsibility for their child's health and should provide school with information about their child's medical condition. Information is requested on the admissions form. Should the child's needs change it is the responsibility of the parent / carer to inform the school in writing so that records can be changed accordingly. There is no legal duty that requires school or setting staff to administer medicines.

This policy and procedures have been drawn up to ensure that children with medical needs are properly cared for and supported while at Windhill Primary School.

Prescribed Drugs

Medicines should only be brought to school when essential; that is where it would be detrimental to a child's health if the medicine were not administered during the school day. Windhill Primary School staff will only accept medicines that have been prescribed by a doctor, dentist, nurse prescriber or pharmacist prescriber. Medicines should always be provided in the original container as dispensed by a pharmacist and must include the prescriber's instructions for administration. School will not accept medicines that have been taken out of the container as originally dispensed nor make changes to dosages on parental instructions.

It is helpful, where clinically appropriate, if medicines are prescribed in dose frequencies which enable it be taken outside of school hours. Parents are encouraged to ask the prescriber about this. It is to be noted that medicines that need to be taken three times a day could be taken in the morning, after school hours and at bedtime so it would not be normal practice for school to administer such medicines.

The Medicines Standards of the National Service Framework for Children (Dept.of Health/DfES 2004) recommends that a range of options are explored including:

- Prescribers using the medicines which need to be administered only once or twice daily (where appropriate) for children so that they can be administered outside school hours.
- Prescribers consider providing two prescriptions, where appropriate and practicable, for a child's medicine: one for home and one for school thereby avoiding the need for repackaging or re labelling of medicines by parents.

Non- Prescribed Medicines

Staff **will not** administer non-prescribed medicines. If a child suffers regularly from frequent or acute pain, the parents/carers should consult the child's GP. Parents/carers should consult the head teacher if specific arrangements need to be put in place for the child concerned. School would wish to work with parents/carers to ensure that the child is able to attend school regularly.

A child under 16 should never be given aspirin or medicines containing ibuprofen unless prescribed by the doctor.

Administering Medicines

Before giving medication to a child, written agreement **MUST** have been received from the parent. This agreement will include the child's name, the name of the medication, the required dose and agreed time of administration. The appropriate agreement form is available for completion at the school office.

Parents/ carers should bring the medication into school and hand it to the Office Manager or Learning Mentors who will then record that it has been received. Staff will only accept medication that is in its original labelled container. Children must not be sent to school with their own medicine as this poses a health and safety risk to other children. Most medicines will be kept in a locked cupboard in the office. If medicine needs to be kept cool it will be stored in the fridge in the staffroom where children have no access. All such medicines must be stored carefully to separate them from food products.

Some emergency medication such as Epi-pens will be stored in the appropriate classroom for easy access. It is the parent/ carers responsibility to check that Epi-pens are not out of date. All staff are trained periodically to administer an Epi- pen in an emergency. Epi-pens must accompany children on all off site activities.

Photos of children with important medical conditions will be displayed appropriately to ensure supply staff are aware of those children who could be vulnerable.

Children should have access to inhalers at all times. Parents should ensure that inhalers are clearly named. It is not part of a teacher's statutory duties to administer medication so this is the responsibility of the head teacher who may delegate it to members of the administration team or a TA working regularly with a specific child. Midday supervisors also have access to a list of children who need inhalers.

Before administering medication the staff member will:

- Check the name of the child.
- Ensure that a drink is available if appropriate.
- Check the label on the medication, name of the child, dose, route of administration, and any special instructions and expiry date.
- Record on the appropriate sheet the time and date that the medicine was given.

All medicines administered should be undertaken by 2 members of staff and signed by both staff members. If a child refuses the medication they will not be forced.

Assisting children with long-term or complex medical needs

Where there are long-term medical needs for a child, a health care plan will be completed, involving parents/carers and relevant health professionals. A health care plan clarifies for staff, parents/carers and the child the help that can be provided. The school will be guided by the child's GP or paediatrician.

The School will meet with parents/carers annually or otherwise depending on the nature of the child's needs to jointly review the health care plan. The school will judge each child's needs individually as children vary in their ability to cope with poor health or a particular medical condition, taking into account the child's age and their need to take personal responsibility. In addition to input from the school health service, the child's GP or other health care professionals depending on the level of support the child needs, the following people will also be consulted to contribute to a health care plan:-

- SENCO
- Parent or carer
- Child (if appropriate)
- Early Years Practitioner/Class Teacher
- Support staff
- Staff who administer medicines

Educational Visits

As an inclusive school we encourage all children to participate in safely managed visits. When the risk assessment is undertaken staff will identify any reasonable adjustments that need to be made in order for children with medical conditions to participate. Arrangements for taking any necessary medication will also be arranged. If staff are concerned about whether they can provide for a child's safety, or the safety of other children while on the trip they should seek parental views and medical advice.

Sporting Activities

Most children with medical conditions can take part in physical activities. Staff will take into account a child's particular need to adapt activities to meet the needs of all children. All staff will be aware of issues of privacy and dignity for children with specific needs. Some children will need to take precautionary measures before or during exercise and need to be allowed access to medicines such as inhalers.

Disposal of Medicines

Staff should not dispose of medicines. Parents/ carers are responsible for ensuring that date expired medicines are returned to the pharmacy for safe disposal. They should also collect medicines at the end of each term.

Confidentiality

We will treat all medical information confidentially.