

Talbot House Preparatory School

Administration of Medication Policy

(Whole School Policy incl. EYFS)

TALBOT HOUSE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Administration of Medication at School

Advice on medication

Children recovering from a short-term illness/infection who are clearly unwell should not be in school and the Headteacher can request that parents or carers keep the pupil at home if necessary.

If the parent or carer requests that the school administer medication (prescribed and non-prescribed), the Headteacher will allow this on the condition that the school's Permission to Dispense Medication form is completed and signed by the parent. If the instructions have not been given in writing, it will not be possible for the school to accept responsibility for administering the medication. In exceptional circumstances a telephone call may be made to the parent/carer to obtain verbal consent. A record will be kept in the medicine record book. A telephone permission slip will also be completed by the member of staff. For medication prescribed to be taken during lesson time, children may be sent to the office and the administrative staff will give the medicine. For all other medication, the classteacher/Learning Assistant must administer medicine and complete the necessary forms. (One for school records, one to be returned to the child's parents/carers)

In the case of chronic illness or disability, i.e. asthma, diabetes, syndromes such as ADHD etc. pupils may need to take prescribed drugs or medicines on a regular basis during school hours in order to lead a normal life within a mainstream school setting. Only those members of staff already named should administer the medication and a record kept. Staff will not under any circumstances administer drugs by injection and parents would be expected to attend to the pupil in school hours in such cases.

School Trips

It is the part of the Inclusion Policy of the school that all pupils should be encouraged to take part in school trips wherever safety permits. It may be that the school would need to take additional safety measures for outdoor visits and staff supervising outings must be aware of any medical needs of such pupils and of the relevant emergency procedures.

Taking Medication on School Trips

It may be necessary to take medication for pupils on a school trip, i.e. Epipen, Inhalers or Epilepsy emergency medication. This medication must be logged in and out of school. It may also be necessary to take copies of any relevant care plans in case of emergency.

Emergency medication must be taken on all trips, even where a trained member of staff is not present. In this case medication should be given to the paramedics to administer when necessary.

Inhalers for Asthma

The Headteacher has agreed that when appropriate, the pupils in Key Stage 2 should assume responsibility for their own inhalers. Spare, individually named inhalers can be kept in the child's classroom, but parents should complete the school's Permission to Dispense form. It is the responsibility of the parent to ensure that the inhalers are renewed and that the medication has not exceeded its expiry date. All inhalers should be collected at the end of the school year.

In the case of pupils in Early Years and Key Stage 1 the school can supervise the child using the inhaler. The inhaler should be given to the class teacher and written instructions given. As before, all inhalers should be regularly renewed and collected at the end of the school year.

Antibiotics

Pupils who are prescribed antibiotics can often recover very quickly and may well be fit enough to return to school, but it may also be essential that the full course of medication should be completed. In this case, the Headteacher is willing for staff to administer the antibiotics supplied by the parent or carer. A Permission to Dispense form should always be completed giving full instructions for administration of the medicine. It is the responsibility of the parent to ensure that the medication is collected each day and is not out of date.

Maintenance Drugs

A child may be on daily medication for a medical condition that requires a dose during the school day. As with all other medicines a form should be completed giving clear instructions to staff at the school. A record of all doses administered will be kept.

Unusual Medications

In the case of unusual prescribed medicines, i.e. use of an Epipen, this will be at the discretion of the Headteacher and parents will need to complete a Medication form accepting responsibility.

In cases of eczema or skin conditions it will be expected that the child will be able to use the cream/lotion on their own.

Nut Allergies/Anaphylaxis Procedures

Medication for the treatment of nut allergies will be kept in easily identifiable containers in individual classrooms. Each container should be clearly labelled with the child's name and class.

Emergency Procedures

In the case of emergency, the school will call an ambulance and contact the parents. When conditions require immediate emergency treatment, trained staff may volunteer to administer medication or emergency procedures such as resuscitation.

Staff should never take children to hospital in their own car - it is safer to call an ambulance. A member of staff should always accompany a child taken to hospital by ambulance and should stay until the parent/carer arrives.

In all cases, administration of medication and/or treatment to a pupil will be at the discretion of the Headteacher of the school. However, ultimate responsibility remains with the parents/carers.

Hygiene and Infection Control

All staff should be familiar with normal precautions for avoiding infection and follow basic hygiene procedures. Staff should have access to protective disposable gloves and take care when dealing with blood or other bodily fluids and disposing of dressings or equipment.

Storage of Medication

All medication must be stored in the designated medication areas i.e. a secure cupboard in the school office or the office fridge (depending on prescriber's instructions.)

Epipens and Inhalers should be readily available and not locked away.

Disposal of Medicines

Staff should not dispose of medicines. Parents are responsible for ensuring that date expired medicines are returned to a Pharmacy for safe disposal.

Summary of Procedure to Dispense Medication

- Permission to dispense medication form must be completed by the parent/carer.
- Medicine must be in original packaging clearly marked with name of child, class and dose to be administered.
- Recommended/prescribed dose will not be exceeded without written permission from a medical professional.
- All medication given must be recorded and witnessed in Medication Record book.
- It will be the parent/carers responsibility to collect medication at the end of each school day where necessary.