



Bradfield School

Administering Medicines, Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions and First Aid Procedures

| Document control table | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------|--|-------------------|
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| Version number: | | V1 | |
| Date approved: | | June 19 | |
| Approved by: | | Full Governing Body and Headteacher | |
| Date of review: | | June 20 | |
| Links to | | DfE and Local Authority guidance on Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings DfE policy on First Aid in School Education Health Care Plans as they apply | |
| Document History | | | |
| Version | Date | Author | Note of revisions |
| V1 | | | |
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This school is committed to reducing the barriers to sharing in school life and learning for all its pupils. This policy sets out the steps which the school will take to ensure full access to learning for all its children who have medical needs and are able to attend school. N.B. Paragraph numbers refer to the DfE publication '*Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings*':

1. Managing prescription medicines which need to be taken during the school day.

Parents/carers should provide full *written* information about their child's medical needs. *Short-term prescription requirements should only be brought to school if it is detrimental to the child's health not to have the medicine during the school day.* If the period of administering medicine is 8 days or more, there must be an individual Health Care Plan. *Paragraph 37*

1.3 The school will **not** accept medicines that have been taken out of the container as originally dispensed, nor make changes to prescribed dosages. *Paragraph 26*

1.4 The school will **only administer** medicines that have not been prescribed by a doctor, dentist, nurse prescriber or pharmacist prescriber, when specific permission has been sought from the parents/carers. It will normally be in relation to an Education Health Care Plan. The school will inform parents of this policy. *Paragraph 25*

1.5 Some medicines prescribed for children (e.g. methylphenidate, known as Ritalin) are controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act. Members of staff are authorised to administer a controlled drug, in accordance with the prescriber's instructions. A child may legally have a prescribed controlled drug in their possession. The school will keep controlled drugs in a locked non-portable container, to which only named staff will have access. A record of access to the container will be kept. Misuse of a controlled drug is an offence, and will be dealt with under the school's behaviour policy.

1.6 Medicines should always be provided in the original container as dispensed by a pharmacist and should include the prescriber's instructions for administration. In all cases this should include:

Name of child

Name of medicine

Dose

Method of administration

Time/frequency of administration

Any side effects

Expiry date *Paragraph 51*

The school will refer to the DfES guidance document when dealing with any other particular issues relating to managing medicines.

2. Procedures for managing prescription medicines on trips and outings and during sporting activities

2.1 The school will consider what reasonable adjustments might be made to enable children with medical needs to participate fully and safely on visits. This may extend to reviewing and revising the visits policy and procedures so that planning arrangements incorporate the necessary steps to include children with medical needs. It might also incorporate risk assessments for such children. *Paragraph 56*

2.2 If staff are concerned about how they can best provide for a child's safety, or the safety of other children on a visit, they should seek parental views and medical advice from the school health service or the child's GP. Please refer to the DfES guidance on planning educational visits. *Paragraph 58*

The school will support children wherever possible in participating in physical activities and extra-curricular sport. Any restriction on a child's ability to participate in PE should be recorded on their Health Care Plan.

Paragraph 60

2.4 Some children may need to take precautionary measures before or during exercise, and may need access, for example, to asthma inhalers. Staff supervising sporting activities will be made aware of relevant medical conditions, and will consider the need for a risk assessment to be made. *Paragraph 61*

2.5 The school must cooperate with the Local Authority in fulfilling its responsibilities regarding home to school transport. (see above). This may include giving advice regarding a child's medical needs. *Paragraph 64*

3. The roles and responsibilities of staff managing administration of medicines, and for administering or supervising the administration of medicines

3.1 Close co-operation between schools, settings, parents/carers, health professionals and other agencies will help provide a suitably supportive environment for children with medical needs and inform parents of our Medicines in School Policy which can be found on our website.

3.2 It is important that responsibility for child safety is clearly defined and that each person responsible for a child with medical needs is aware of what is expected of them.

3.3 The school will always take full account of temporary, supply and peripatetic staff when informing staff of arrangements for the administration of medicines.

The school will always designate a minimum of two people to be responsible for the administering of medicine to a child.

3.5 Staff should **never** give a non-prescribed medicine to a child unless this is part of an individual Health Care Plan, involving specific written permission from the parents/carers. Where the head agrees to administer a non-prescribed medicine it **must** be in accordance with this policy. The school will inform parents of this policy. Criteria in the national standards for under 8s day care make it clear that non-prescription medicines should not normally be administered. Where a non-

prescribed medicine is administered to a child it should be recorded on a form such as Form 5 or 6 and the parents/carers informed. If a child suffers from frequent or acute pain the parents/carers should be encouraged to refer the matter to the child's GP.

3.6 National Guidance states: 'A child under 16 should **never** be given aspirin or medicines containing ibuprofen unless prescribed by a doctor.' The school will inform parents of this policy.

(Paragraph 35)

3.7 Any controlled drugs which have been prescribed for a child must be kept in safe custody.

3.8 If a child refuses to take medicine, staff will not force them to do so. Staff should record the incident and follow agreed procedures (which should be set out in the policy or the child's Health Care Plan). Parents/carers will be informed of the refusal on the same day. If refusal results in an emergency, the school's normal emergency procedures will be followed. *(Paragraph 49)*

3.9 If in doubt about a procedure, staff should not administer the medicine, but check with the parents or a health professional before taking further action.

N.B. The DfES guidance document gives a full description of roles and responsibilities Paragraphs 66 to 102.

4. Parental responsibilities in respect of their child's medical needs

4.1 It is the parents/carers' responsibility to provide the headteacher with sufficient *written* information about their child's medical needs if treatment or special care is needed.

4.2 Parents are expected to work with the headteacher to reach an agreement on the school's role in supporting their child's medical needs, in accordance with the school's policy.

4.3 The headteacher should have *written* parental agreement before passing on information about their child's health to other staff including transport staff. Sharing information is important if staff and parents/carers are to ensure the best care for a child.

4.4 If parents/carers have difficulty understanding or supporting their child's medical condition themselves, they should be encouraged to contact either the school nurse or the health visitor, as appropriate.

4.5 It is the parents/carers' responsibility to keep their children at home when they are acutely unwell. *Paragraph 83*

4.6 It requires only one parent/carer to agree to or request that medicines are administered to a child. It is likely that this will be the parent with whom the school or setting has day-to-day contact.

4.7 Prior written agreement should be obtained from parents/carers for any medicines to be given to a child. (See specimen forms in Appendix A.)

5. Assisting children with long-term or complex medical needs

Where there are long-term medical needs for a child, including administration of medicine for a period of 8 days or more, a Health Care Plan should be completed, using Form 2, involving both parents/carers and relevant health professionals.

5.1 A Health Care Plan clarifies for staff, parents/carers and the child the help that can be provided. It is important for staff to be guided by the school nurse or the child's GP or paediatrician.

5.2 The school will agree with parents/carers how often they should jointly review the health care plan. It is sensible to do this at least once a year, but much depends on the nature of the child's particular needs; some would need reviewing more frequently.

Paragraph 119

5.3 The school will judge each child's needs individually as children and young people vary in their ability to cope with poor health or a particular medical condition. Plans will also take into account a pupil's age and need to take personal responsibility.

Paragraph 120

5.4 Developing a Health Care Plan should not be onerous, although each plan will contain different levels of detail according to the needs of the individual child.

Paragraph 121

5.5 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, those who may need to contribute to a health care pro forma include the:

Headteacher or head of setting

Parent or carer

Child (if appropriate)

Early Years Practitioner/Class Teacher - Primary schools/Form Tutor/Head of Year - secondary schools

Care assistant or support staff

Staff who are trained to administer medicines

Staff who are trained in emergency procedures *Paragraph 122*

The school will consult the DfE publication 'Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings' when dealing with the needs of children with the following common conditions:

Asthma

Epilepsy

Diabetes

Anaphylaxis

Paragraphs

131 – 193

Regarding epilepsy, some children may be prescribed rectal diazepam as a treatment for prolonged seizures. Staff involved must have received training from local health services. A written authorisation from the GP, Consultant or Epilepsy Specialist Nurse must have been received for each child, along with instructions for use. Form 9 may be used for this purpose. Two adults must be present for such treatment, at least one being of the same gender as the child. The dignity of the child must be protected as far as possible.

6. Off-site Education or Work Experience for Secondary School Pupils

6.1 The school has responsibility for an overall risk assessment of any off-site activity, including issues such as travel to and from the placement and supervision during non-teaching time or breaks and lunch hours. This does not conflict with the responsibility of the college or employer to undertake a risk assessment to identify significant risks and necessary control measures when pupils below the minimum school leaving age are on site. *Paragraph 127*

6.2 The school will refer to the DfE guidance Work Related Learning and the Law DfES/0475/2004, the Health and Safety Executive and the Learning and Skills Council for programmes that they are funding e.g. Increased Flexibility Programme.

6.3 The school is also responsible for pupils with medical needs who, as part of Key Stage 4 provision, are educated off-site through another provider such as the voluntary sector, E2E training provider or further education college. The school will comply with LA policy on the conduct of risk assessments before a young person is educated off-site or has work experience. *Paragraph 126*

6.4 The school is responsible for ensuring that a work place provider has a health and safety policy which covers each individual student's needs.

6.5 Parents/carers and pupils must give their permission before relevant medical information is shared on a confidential basis with employers. *Paragraph 128*

7 Policy on children carrying and taking their prescribed medicines themselves
An example of this would be a child with asthma using an inhaler.

7.1 *It is good practice to support and encourage pupils, who are able, to take responsibility to manage their own medicines.* If such medicines are taken under supervision, this should be recorded. *Paragraph 45*

7.2 There is no set age when a child or young person can take responsibility for their own medication. This needs to be a joint decision between school, parents/carers and the pupil. Please refer to Form 7. *Paragraph 46*

7.3 Where pupils have been prescribed controlled drugs, these must be kept in safe custody. Pupils could access them for self-medication if it was agreed that this was appropriate. *Paragraph 48*

8 Staff support and training in dealing with medical needs

8.1 The school will ensure that there are sufficient members of support staff who manage medicines. This will involve participation in appropriate training.

8.2 Any member of staff who agrees to accept responsibility for administering prescribed medicines to a child does so voluntarily and will have appropriate training and guidance. They will also be made aware of possible side effects of the medicines, and what to do if they occur. The type of training necessary will depend on the individual case.

8.3 Teachers' conditions of employment do not include giving or supervising a pupil taking medicines. Agreement to do so must be voluntary.

8.4 The school will ensure that staff receive proper support and training where necessary, in line with the contractual duty on headteachers to ensure that their staff receive the training. The headteacher or teacher in charge of a setting will agree when and how such training takes place, in their capacity as a line manager. The head of the school or setting will make sure that all staff and parents/carers are aware of the policy and procedures for dealing with medical needs. *(Paragraph 83)*

8.5 Staff who have a child with medical needs in their class or group will be informed about the nature of the condition, and when and where the child may need extra attention.

8.6 The child's parents/carers and health professionals should provide the information specified above.

8.7 All staff should be aware of the likelihood of an emergency arising and what action to take if one occurs.

8.8 Back up cover should be arranged for when the member of staff responsible is absent or unavailable.

8.9 At different times of the day other staff, such as lunchtime supervisors, may be responsible for children. They will also be provided with training and advice.

9 Record keeping

9.1 Parents/carers should tell the school or setting about the medicines that their child needs to take and provide details of any changes to the prescription or the support required. However staff should make sure that this information is the same as that provided by the prescriber. Any change in prescription should be supported by either new directions on the packaging of medication or by a supporting letter from a medical professional.

Paragraph 50

9.2 The school will use Form 3A to record short-term administration of medication. Consent forms should be delivered personally by the consenting parent/carer. Staff

should check that any details provided by parents, or in particular cases by a paediatrician or specialist nurse, are consistent with the instructions on the container.

9.3 The school will use Form 3B to record long-term administration of medication. Consent forms should be delivered personally by the consenting parent/carer. Staff should check that any details provided by parents, or in particular cases by a paediatrician or specialist nurse, are consistent with the instructions on the container.

9.4 It is the parent/carer's responsibility to monitor when further supplies of medication are needed in the school. It is not the school's /setting's responsibility.

9.5 Form 4 should be used to confirm, with the parents/carers, that a member of staff will administer medicine to their child. *Paragraph 52*

9.6 (For Early Years Settings) This setting will keep written records of all medicines administered to children, and make sure that parents/carers sign the record book to acknowledge the entry. (All Early Years settings must do this.) *Paragraph 54*

9.7 Although there is no similar legal requirement for schools to keep records of medicines given to pupils, and the staff involved, it is good practice to do so. Records offer protection to staff and proof that they have followed agreed procedures. Some schools keep a logbook for this. Forms 5 and 6 provide example record sheets. This school will/will not keep a logbook of medicines given. *Paragraph 55*

10. Safe storage of medicines

10.1 The school will only store supervise and administer medicine that has been prescribed for an individual child.

10.2 Medicines will be stored strictly in accordance with product instructions - paying particular note to temperature and in the original container in which dispensed.

10.3 Staff will ensure that the supplied container is clearly labelled with the name of the child, the name and dose of the medicine, the method and frequency of administration, the time of administration, any side effects and the expiry date.

10.4 Where a child needs two or more prescribed medicines, each will be in a separate container.

10.5 Non-healthcare staff will never transfer medicines from their original containers. *Paragraph 107*

10.6 Children will be informed where their own medicines are stored and who holds the key.

10.7 All emergency medicines, such as asthma inhalers and adrenaline pens, will be readily available to children and will not be locked away.

10.8 Schools may allow children to carry their own inhalers. This school will/will not do so.

10.9 Other non-emergency medicines will be kept in a secure place not accessible to children. *Paragraph 108*

10.10 A few medicines need to be refrigerated. They can be kept in a refrigerator containing food but *must* be in an airtight container and clearly labelled. There will be restricted access to a refrigerator holding medicines. It is acceptable for a staff room fridge to be used for storage, as long as medical items are clearly labelled. *Paragraph 109*

10.11 Access to Medicines - Children need to have immediate access to their medicines when required. The school will make special access arrangements for emergency medicines that it keeps. However, it is also important to make sure that medicines are kept securely and only accessible to those for whom they are prescribed. This will be considered as part of the policy about children carrying their own medicines. *Paragraph 111*

11. Disposal of Medicines

11.1 Staff should not dispose of medicines. Parents/carers are responsible for ensuring that date-expired medicines are returned to a pharmacy for safe disposal. *Return of such medicines to parents should be documented.*

11.2 Parents/carers should also collect medicines held at the end of each term. If parents/carers do not collect all medicines, they will be taken to a local pharmacy for safe disposal. *This process should be documented. Paragraph 112*

11.3 Sharps boxes will always be used for the disposal of needles. Collection and disposal of the boxes will be arranged with the Local Authority. *Paragraph 113*

12. Hygiene and Infection Control

12.1 All staff should be familiar with normal precautions for avoiding infection and follow basic hygiene procedures

12.2 Staff will have access to protective disposable gloves and will take care when dealing with spillages of blood or other body fluids, and disposing of dressings or equipment.

12.3 OfSTED guidance provides an extensive list of issues that early years providers should consider in making sure settings are hygienic. *Paragraph 114*

12.4 The Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999 require every school to have a room appropriate and readily available for use for medical or dental examination and treatment and for the caring of sick or injured pupils. It must contain a washbasin and be reasonably near a water closet. It must not be teaching accommodation. If this room is used for other purposes as well as for medical accommodation, the body responsible must consider whether dual use is

satisfactory or has unreasonable implications for its main purpose. The responsibility for providing these facilities in all maintained schools rests with the Local Authority.

13. Access to the school's emergency procedures

13.1 As part of general risk management processes the school *must* have arrangements in place for dealing with emergency situations. [This could be part of the school's first aid policy and provision. See DfES Guidance on First Aid for Schools: a good practice guide, 1998]

13.2 Other children should know what to do in the event of an emergency, such as telling a member of staff.

13.3 All staff should know how to call the emergency services. Guidance on calling an ambulance is provided in Form 1.

13.4 All staff should also know who is responsible for carrying out emergency procedures in the event of need.

13.5 A member of staff will always accompany a child taken to hospital by ambulance, and will stay until the parent arrives.

13.6 Health professionals are responsible for any decisions on medical treatment when parents/carers are not available. *Paragraph 115*

13.7 Staff should never take children to hospital in their own car; it is safer to call an ambulance. *Paragraph 116*

13.8 In remote areas a school might wish to make arrangements with a local health professional for emergency cover. *Paragraph 116*

13.9 The national standards require early years settings to ensure that contingency arrangements are in place to cover such emergencies. *Paragraph 116*

13.10 Individual Health Care Plans will include instructions as to how to manage a child in an emergency, and identify who has the responsibility in an emergency. Those with responsibility at different times of day (e.g. lunchtime supervisor) will need to be very clear of their role. *Paragraph 117*

14. Risk assessment and management procedures

This policy will operate within the context of the school's Health and Safety Policy.

14.1 The school will ensure that risks to the health of others are properly controlled.

14.2 The school will provide, where necessary, individual risk assessments for pupils or groups with medical needs.

The school will be aware of the health and safety issues relating to dangerous substances and infection.

15. Home to School Transport

The school will ensure that there is effective liaison with drivers and escorts providing home to school transport. (see Section E of Sheffield Local Authority Guidance, above).

15.1 Prior to transport commencing, transport staff need to be fully briefed about the medical needs of pupils being transported. Briefing will be given by a nurse in school, or by another *appropriately informed* member of staff.

There should be regular reviews of the situation, so that drivers and escorts have up-to-date information

Where pupils have life-threatening conditions, specific health care plans (or specific essential information from the plan) should be carried on vehicles. The care plans should specify the steps to be taken to support the normal care of the pupil, as well as the appropriate responses to emergency situations.

See Sheffield Local Authority Guidance on Managing Medicines in Schools and Settings for flow charts and forms

Emergency and First Aid Procedures

1. As part of general risk management processes Bradfield school has arrangements in place for dealing with emergency situations and follows the Department for Education Guidance on First Aid for Schools. Other children should know what to do in the event of an emergency, such as telling a member of staff. All staff should know how to call the emergency services. All staff should also know who is responsible for carrying out emergency procedures in the event of need. A member of staff should always accompany a child taken to hospital by ambulance, and should stay until the parent arrives. Health professionals are responsible for any decisions on medical treatment when parents are not available.
2. Staff should never take children to hospital in their own car; it is safer to call an ambulance. In remote areas an Academy might wish to make arrangements with a local health professional for emergency cover. The national standards require early years' settings to ensure that contingency arrangements are in place to cover such emergencies.
3. Individual health care plans should include instructions as to how to manage a child in an emergency, and identify who has the responsibility in an emergency, for example if there is an incident in the playground a lunchtime supervisor would need to be very clear of their role.