

Dimboola Memorial Secondary College

MEDICATION MANAGEMENT POLICY



Rationale:

Schools are often asked by parents to administer medication for their children while at school. It is important that such requests are managed in a manner that is appropriate, ensures the safety of students, and fulfils the duty of care of staff. **The school will ensure the students privacy and confidentiality and will exercise sensitivity towards this issue to avoid any stigmatisation.**

Aims:

- To ensure medications are administered appropriately to students in our care.

Implementation:

- Children who are unwell should not attend school.
- The First Aid officer will be responsible for administering medications to children.
- Non-prescribed oral medications (eg: headache tablets) will not be held by the college
- All parent requests for the First Aid staff to administer medications to their child must be in writing on the form provided and must be supported by specific written instruction from the medical practitioner or pharmacist including the name of the student, dosage and time to be administered. (Original medications bottle or container should provide this information).
- All verbal requests for children to be administered medications whilst at school must be directed to the First Aid Staff, who in turn, will seek a discussion with parents to confirm details of the request and to outline school staff responsibilities.
- Requests for prescribed medications to be administered by the school 'as needed' will cause the First Aid Officer to seek further written clarification from the parents.
- All student medications must be in the original containers, must be labelled, must have the quantity of tablets confirmed and documented, and must be stored in either the locked office first aid cabinet or sick bay refrigerator, whichever is most appropriate.
- Consistent with our Asthma policy, students may carry an asthma inhaler with them.
- Classroom teachers will be informed by the First Aid Officer of prescribed medications for students in their charge, and classroom teachers will release students at prescribed times so that they may visit the sick bay and receive their medication.
- All completed Medication Request Forms and details relating to students, their medication, dosage quantities and times of administering will be kept and recorded in a confidential medication register located in the Sick Bay area in the presence of, and confirmed by, a second staff member.
- Students involved in school camps or excursions will be discreetly administered medications by the 'Teacher in Charge' in a manner consistent with the above procedures, with all details recorded on loose-leaf pages from the official medications register. Completed pages will be returned to the official medications register on return of the excursion to school.
- Parents/carers of students that may require injections are required to meet with the principal to discuss the matter.
- In line with their age and stage of development and capabilities, older students can take responsibility for their own health care.
- It is up to the Principal's discretion to agree for the student to carry and manage his/her own medication. This would be advisable only where:
 - The medication did not have special storage requirements such as refrigeration
 - The practice did not create a situation where there was potential unsafe access to the medication by other students.

- Ideally, the medication carried and self-managed by students should:
 - Be in the original pharmacy-labelled container
 - Be limited to daily requirement (preferred).
- Students are to respect other student's medication and must keep their own medication secure to minimise risk to others.

The principal (or nominee) administering medication needs to ensure that:

The right child;

- Has the right medication;
- And the right dose;
- By the right route (for example, oral or inhaled);
- At the right time; and
- That they write down what they have observed
- Permission to administer medication has been received from the child's parents/guardians/approved persons or a medical practitioner.

The principal or their nominee will inform teachers of those students in their charge who require medication to be administered at the school. The teachers may be required to release students at prescribed times so they may receive their medications from the principal or nominee.

Evaluation

This policy was last ratified by School Council in...

May 2016

Appendix A

Medication Management Procedures

The school has developed procedures for the appropriate storage and administration of prescribed and non-prescribed medicines to students by school staff with reference to individual student medical information.

1. Student Information

Parents and/or guardians are required to keep the school informed of current medical contact details concerning students and any current medical conditions and appropriate medical history.

Every student who has a medical condition or illness has an individual management plan that is attached to the student's records. This management plan is provided by the student's parents/guardians and contains details of:

- The usual medical treatment needed by the student at school or on school activities
- The medical treatment and action needed if the student's condition deteriorates
- The name, address and telephone numbers for an emergency contact and the student's doctor

Administration of prescribed Oral Medication

Parents/guardians are required to inform the principal in writing of any prescribed medication that students need to take in school hours. Where medication is required in spontaneous situations, detailed administration instructions should be provided, for example in the case of asthma attacks. Medication Administration Permission Forms are available from the Administration Office and should be completed and signed by the parent/guardian.

Certain students are capable of taking their own medication (usually tablets) while other students will need assistance from teachers. This information will be recorded on the individual student's management plan.

All medication sent to school is to be administered by school staff and, parents/guardians are required to supply medication in a container that gives the name of the medication, name of the student, the dose, and the time it is to be given.

Where medication for more than one day is supplied, it is to be locked in the storage cupboard in the school administration office.

Administration of Analgesics

Analgesics are only to be given following permission of parents/guardians and are to be issued by a First Aid Officer who maintains a record to monitor student intake. Analgesics are to be supplied by the parents. The school may not supply analgesics.

Asthma

Asthma is an extremely common condition for Australian students. Students with asthma have sensitive airways in their lungs. When exposed to certain triggers their airways narrow, making it hard for them to breathe.

Symptoms of asthma commonly include:

- Cough
- Tightness in the chest
- Shortness of breath/rapid breathing
- Wheeze (a whistling noise from the chest)

Many children have mild asthma with very minor problems and rarely need medication. However, some students will need medication on a daily basis and frequently require additional medication at school (particularly before or after vigorous exercise). Most students with asthma can control their asthma by taking regular medication.

Student Asthma Information

Every student with asthma attending the school has a written Asthma Action Plan, ideally completed by their treating doctor or paediatrician, in consultation with the student's parent/carer.

This plan is attached to the student's records and updated annually or more frequently if the student's asthma changes significantly. The Asthma Action Plan should be provided by the student's doctor and is accessible to all staff. It contains information including:

- Usual medical treatment (medication taken on a regular basis when the student is 'well' or as pre-medication prior to exercise)
- Details on what to do and details of medications to be used in cases of deteriorating asthma – this includes how to recognise worsening symptoms and what to do during an acute asthma attack
- Name, address and telephone number of an emergency contact
- Name, address and telephone number (including an after-hours number) of the student's doctor

If a student is obviously and repeatedly experiencing asthma symptoms and/or using an excessive amount of reliever medication, the parents/carers will be notified so that appropriate medical consultation can be arranged. Students needing asthma medication during school attendance must have their medication use; date, time and amount of dose recorded in the First Aid Treatment Book in the sick bay each time for monitoring of their condition.

Asthma Medication

There are three main groups of asthma medications: relievers, preventers and symptom controllers. There are also combination medications containing preventer and symptom controller medication in the same delivery device.

Reliever medication provides relief from asthma symptoms within minutes. It relaxes the muscles around the airways for up to four hours, allowing air to move more easily through the airways. Reliever medications are usually blue in colour and common brand names include Airomir, Asmol, Bricanyl, Epaq and Ventolin. These medications will be easily accessible to students at all times, preferably carried by the student with asthma. All students with asthma are encouraged to recognise

their own asthma symptoms and take their blue reliever medication as soon as they develop symptoms at school.

Preventer medications come in autumn colours (for example brown, orange, and yellow) and are used on a regular basis to prevent asthma symptoms. They are mostly taken twice a day at home and will generally not be seen in the school environment.

Symptom controllers are green in colour and are often referred to as long acting relievers. Symptom controllers are used in conjunction with preventer medication and are taken at home once or twice a day.

Symptom controllers and preventer medications are often combined in one device. These are referred to as combination medications and will generally not be seen at school.

