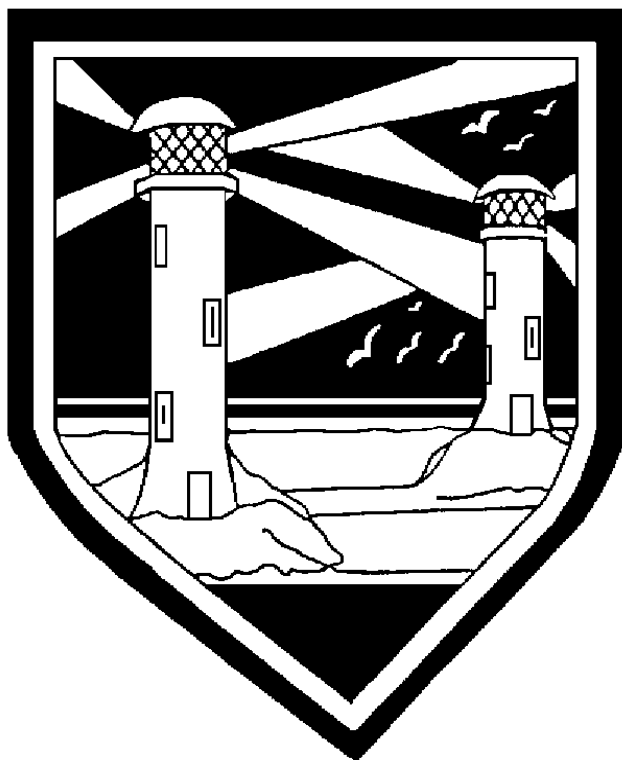


Harwich Community Primary School and Nursery



Medicine at School Policy

Responsibility: Mrs Rachel Anderson

Governor: Mr Adrian Mann

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Aims of the Policy

The aim of this policy is to ensure that pupils with medical conditions are 'supported so that they have full access to education, including school trips and physical education.' The systems which will be put into place, in respect of administering medicines, have been developed in line with advice from the DfE guidance 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions.' (ref Children and Families Act 2014.) The systems outlined below will support the policy.

Managing Prescription medicines which need to be taken during the school day

Medicines should only be brought into school when it is essential. That is, when it would be detrimental to a child's health if the medicine were not administered during the school day.

Many children will need to be able to take medicines during the day at some time during their time at school. This will usually be for a short period only, perhaps to finish a course of antibiotics or to apply a lotion. To allow children to do this will minimise the time that they need to be absent. However, such medicines should only be brought to school where it would be detrimental to a child's health if it were not administered during the school day.

At Harwich Community Primary School and Nursery, following the regulations from the DfE, we will only be able to accept medicines which have been prescribed by the doctor, dentist, nurse prescriber or pharmacist prescriber. Medicines will need to be provided in the original container as dispensed by a pharmacist and include the prescriber's instructions for administration.

It is helpful, where clinically appropriate, if medicines can be prescribed in dose frequencies which enable it to be taken outside school hours. Parents will be encouraged to ask the prescriber about this. Medicines that need to be taken three times a day could be taken in the morning, after school and at bedtime.
*All emergency medicines, such as asthma inhalers and adrenaline pens, should be readily available to children and should not be locked away.

We also ask that parents complete a form with all the details of the medication and dosage etc.

If your child has been prescribed antibiotics and it is their first time taking this medication or have not done so in a while, we follow advice from our first aid trainers that they stay at home for 24 hours after taking the first dose in case they have an allergic reaction.

Managing prescription medicines on trips and outings

Since we would always wish our pupils with medical needs to participate in visits whenever possible, we need to consider for each visit what reasonable adjustments will have to be made to enable the children with medical needs to take part in safely managed visits.

The risk assessment form which is completed prior to the visit will need to include the necessary steps to include children with medical needs, together with any particular risk assessments for those children. It may be necessary for additional safety measures to be taken for outside visits. Arrangements for taking any necessary medicines will also need to be taken into consideration. Staff supervising excursions should always be aware of any medical needs and the relevant emergency procedures if appropriate.

A copy of any health care plans should be taken on visits in the event of the information being needed in an emergency. It will be the responsibility of the parents to ensure that any medication children take with them on trips and outings is available and in date.

Sporting activities

At Harwich Community Primary School and Nursery, most children with medical conditions can, and indeed are positively encouraged to, participate in physical activities and extracurricular sport. However, any restrictions on a child's ability to participate in P.E. should be recorded in their individual health care plan. Some children may need to take precautionary measures before or during exercise and may also need to be allowed immediate access to their medicines such as asthma inhalers. Health care plans are completed and updated regularly for children who have conditions such as asthma, epilepsy, diabetes or anaphylaxis.

Roles and responsibilities of staff managing the administration of medicines and for administering or supervising the administration of medicines

No child under 16 should be given medicines without their parent's written consent.

Any member of staff giving medicines to a child should check:

- The child's name.
- the prescribed dose.
- The expiry date.
- The written instructions provided by the prescriber on the label or container.

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

However, in the event of an emergency, and particularly for those pupils who have a care plan, the procedure outlined in the care plan will be followed.

Each time a medicine is given to a child, the member of staff administering the medicine must complete and record it. The forms for this purpose are held in the appropriate folder in the school office.

By completing these forms, we are demonstrating that we have exercised a duty of care.

All medicines, apart from asthma inhalers and other medicines which have been identified as being necessary for the pupil to have with them at all times, will be handed in to the school office. It may then be necessary to refrigerate the medicine, or lock it away in a medicine cupboard. Medicines which need to be refrigerated will be kept in the refrigerator. There will be restricted access to this refrigerator. The medicines in here will need to be stored in their original containers and clearly labelled. The parent of the child taking the medicine will be asked to complete a parental consent form in order for the medicine to be taken at school. Parents should tell us about the medicines that their children need to take and provide details of any changes to the prescription or the support required.

Self-management of medicines

It is good practice to support and encourage children, who are able, to take responsibility to manage their own medicines from a relatively early age and we encourage this.

Older children, with long - term illness should, whenever possible, assume complete responsibility under the supervision of their parent. Under these circumstances, it will be important for the parent to liaise with school to provide information regarding any changes in the medical condition or the medication itself.

Refusing medicines

If a child refuses to take medicine, staff should not force them to do so, but should note this in the records. Parents should be informed of the refusal on the same day. If refusal to take medicines results in an emergency, the school's emergency procedures should be followed.

Parental responsibilities in respect of their child's medical needs

Parents should tell the school about the medicines that their child needs to take and provide details of any changes to the prescription or the support required. However, staff will also need to make sure that this information is the

same as that provided by the prescriber and are consistent with the instructions on the container. Parents will also need to provide school with any information relating to predisposed conditions which we need to be made aware of. Medicines should always be provided in the original container as dispensed by a pharmacist and include the prescriber's instructions. In all cases it is necessary to check that written details include:

- child's name
- name of the medicine
- dose
- method of administration
- time/frequency of administration
- any possible side effects
- expiry date

Long term medical needs

It is important to have sufficient information about the medical condition of any child with long-term medical needs. An **Individual Healthcare Plan** for these children, involving the parents and the relevant health professionals, will enable the appropriate support to be provided. Some children may also have special educational needs (SEN) and may have a statement, or **Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan** which brings together the planning for all three needs. The school's SENCO will coordinate any plans for children with medical needs and those with additional needs also. The office Manager will also be present at the coordination of managing health needs.

The health care plan will include:

- details of the child's condition
- any special requirement e.g. dietary needs, pre-activity precautions
- any side-effects of the medicines
- what constitutes an emergency
- what action to take in an emergency
- what not to do in the event of an emergency
- who to contact in an emergency
- the role the staff can play.

Plans will be reviewed regularly and in accordance with need and best practice with individual cases. Social and emotional needs will also be given full consideration and attendance will be monitored carefully and sensitively.

Situations in which children may take any nonprescriptive medicines

Non-prescribed medicines will not be administered to pupils at Harwich Community Primary School and Nursery. If a child is suffering regularly from frequent or acute pain, the parents should be encouraged to refer the matter to the child's GP.

A CHILD UNDER 16 SHOULD NEVER BE GIVEN ASPIRIN OR MEDICINES CONTAINING IBUPROFEN UNLESS PRESCRIBED BY A DOCTOR.

THEREFORE, WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ADMINISTER THESE MEDICINES WITHOUT A DOCTOR'S PRESCRIPTION.