

# *St. Joseph's R.C. Primary School*



## ***Nursery Administration of Medicines Policy***

**November 2023**

Review: November 2026

## **Policy Review**

This policy will be reviewed in full by the Governing Body on an annual basis.

The policy was last reviewed and agreed by the Governing Body November 2023

It is due for review in November 2026

Hayley Francis

Date: November 2023

Head Teacher



Lindsay Wise

Date: November 2023

Chair of Governors



## **Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Health**

Providers must have and implement a policy, and procedures, for administering medicines. It must include systems for obtaining information about a child's needs for medicines, and for keeping this information up to date.

### **Policy statement**

While it is not our policy to care for sick children, who should be at home until they are well enough to return to the setting, administer medication as part of maintaining their health and well-being or when they are recovering from an illness. We ensure that where medicines are necessary to maintain the health of the child, they are given correctly and in accordance with legal requirements.

In many cases, it is possible for children's GPs to prescribe medicine that can be taken at home in the morning and evening. As far as possible, administering medicines will only be done where it would be detrimental to the child's health if not given in the setting. If a child has not had a medication before, it is advised that the parent keeps the child at home for the first 48 hours to ensure there are no adverse effects, as well as to give time for the medication to take effect.

Our staff are responsible for the correct administration of medication to children for whom they are responsible. This includes ensuring that parent consent forms have been

completed, that medicines are stored correctly and that records are kept according to procedures.

## **Procedures**

- Children taking prescribed medication must be well enough to attend the setting.
- We only usually administer medication when it has been prescribed for a child by a doctor (or other medically qualified person). It must be in-date and prescribed for the current condition.
- Non-prescription medication, such as pain or fever relief (e.g. Calpol) and teething gel, may be administered, but only with prior written consent of the parent and only when there is a health reason to do so, such as a high temperature. Children are never given medicines containing aspirin unless prescribed specifically for that child by a doctor. The administering of un-prescribed medication is recorded in the same way as any other medication.
- Children's prescribed medicines are stored in their original containers in the First Aid Cabinet, which is locked. They are clearly labelled and are inaccessible to the children. On receiving the medication, the member of staff checks that it is in date and prescribed specifically for the current condition.
- Parents must give prior written permission for the administration of the medication. The staff member receiving the medication will ask the parent to sign a consent form stating the following information.
  - the full name of child and date of birth
  - the name of medication and strength
  - the dosage and times to be given in the setting
  - the method of administration
  - how the medication should be stored and its expiry date
  - any possible side effects that may be expected
  - the signature of the parent, their printed name and the date

No medication may be given without these details being provided:

- The administration of medicine is recorded accurately in each time it is given and is signed by the person administering the medication and a witness. Parents are shown the record at the end of the day and asked to sign it, to acknowledge the administration of the medicine.

- If the administration of prescribed medication requires medical knowledge, we obtain appropriate individual training for the relevant members of staff and by a health professional where required.
- No child may self-administer. Where children are capable of understanding when they need medication, for example with asthma, they should be encouraged to tell their key person/ member of staff what they need. However, this does not replace staff vigilance in knowing and responding when a child requires medication.
- We monitor the medication record to look at the frequency of medication given in the setting. For example, a high incidence of antibiotics being prescribed for a number of children at similar times may indicate a need for better infection control.

### ***Storage of medicines***

- All medication is stored safely in the First Aid cupboard or refrigerated as required.
- Staff are responsible for ensuring medicine is handed back at the end of the day to the parent.
- For some conditions, medication may be kept in the setting to be administered on a regular or as-and-when- required basis e.g. Salbutamol for a child with asthma. Medication must be named and kept in a bag which is accessible, but out of reach of children and locked away at the end of the day. Key persons check that any medication held in the setting, is in date and return any out-of-date medication back to the parent.
- Staff are informed of this as part of their induction process.

### ***Children who have long term medical conditions and who may require ongoing medication***

- An Individual Health Care plan is set up for each child with a long-term medical condition that requires on-going medication. A risk assessment may also be required. This is the responsibility of our manager alongside the key person. Other medical or social care personnel may need to be involved in the risk assessment.
- Parents will also contribute to a risk assessment/ Individual Health Care Plan. They should understand the nursery routines and activities and point out anything which they think may be a risk factor for their child.
- For some medical conditions, key staff will need to have training in a basic understanding of the condition, as well as how the medication is to be administered correctly. The training needs for staff form part of the risk assessment/individual Health Care Plan
- The risk assessment includes vigorous activities and any other activity that may give cause for concern regarding an individual child's health needs.

- The risk assessment/ Health Care Plan includes arrangements for taking medicines on outings and advice is sought from the child's GP if necessary where there are concerns.
- An individual health plan for the child is drawn up with the parent; outlining the key person role and what information must be shared with other adults who care for the child.
- The individual health plan should include the measures to be taken in an emergency.
- We review the individual health plan every six months, or more frequently if necessary. This includes reviewing the medication, e.g. changes to the medication or the dosage, any side effects noted etc.
- Parents receive a copy of the individual health plan and each contributor, including the parent, signs it.

### ***Managing medicines on trips and outings***

- If children are going on outings, the key person for the child will accompany the children with a risk assessment, or another member of staff who is fully informed about the child's needs and/or medication.
- Medication for a child is taken in a sealed plastic box clearly labelled with the child's name, the original pharmacist's label and the name of the medication. Inside the box is a copy of the consent form and a sheet to record when it has been given, including all the details that need to be recorded in the medication record as stated above. For medication dispensed by a hospital pharmacy, where the child's details are not on the dispensing label, we will record the circumstances of the event and hospital instructions as relayed by the parents.
- On returning to the setting the sheet is stapled to the child's medicine record and the parent signs it.
- If a child on medication has to be taken to hospital, the child's medication is taken in a sealed plastic box clearly labelled with the child's name and the name of the medication. Inside the box is a copy of the consent form signed by the parent.
- This procedure should be read alongside the Outings Procedure.