

# WISBOROUGH GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL



## MEDICINES IN SCHOOL POLICY

Approved by the Governing Body: March 2025  
Next review due: March 2028

## **Policy on Medicines in School**

### **Statement of Intent**

Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014 places a duty on 'governing bodies of maintained schools, proprietors of academies and management committees of PRUs to make arrangements for supporting pupils at their school with medical conditions'. The governing body of Wisborough Green Primary School will ensure that these arrangements fulfil their statutory duties and follow guidance outline in 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions' December 2015'.

Medicines will be administered to enable the inclusion of pupils with medical needs, promote regular attendance and minimise the impact on a pupil's ability to learn. In an emergency all teachers and other staff in charge of children have a common law duty of care to act for the health and safety of a child in their care – this might mean giving medicines or medical care.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "S P Butcher" followed by a flourish.

Chair of Governors

### **Organisation**

The governing body will develop policies and procedures to ensure the medical needs of pupils at Wisborough Green Primary School are managed appropriately. They will support them with the implementation of these arrangements.

The Lead for Managing Medicines at Wisborough Green Primary School is Mrs Sarah Taaffe or, in her absence, Mrs Julie Swan. In their duties, staff will be guided by their training, this policy and related procedures.

### **Implementation monitoring and review**

All staff, governors, parents/carers and members of the Wisborough Green Primary School community will be made aware of and have access to this policy. This policy will be reviewed biennially and its implementation reviewed and included in the Head teacher's annual report to Governors.

### **Insurance**

Staff who follow the procedures outlined in this policy and who undertake tasks detailed as 'cover available' in the RMP Medical Malpractice Treatment Table will be insured under the WSCC Public Liability insurance policy. The Treatment Table is available to view on West Sussex Services for Schools under Other Documents in the Insurance, Resources section.

In addition to this policy the Council also maintains a Medical Malpractice policy to incorporate insurance cover for the more invasive and complicated procedures that staff are now expected to undertake and that are not covered under a standard Public Liability policy.

There is a brief section on Medical Malpractice in the Insurance Guide 23/24, (on WSSfE, Insurance, Resources, Core Policy Information) which outlines the policy, but any further specific questions will need to be directed to Sharon Andrews for clarification.

### **Admissions**

When the school is notified of the admission of any pupil the Lead for Managing Medicines will seek parental consent to administer short term-ad-hoc non-prescriptions medication using 'Template B: Parent/guardian consent to administer short-term non-prescribed 'ad-hoc' medicines.' An assessment of the pupil's medical needs will be completed this might include the development of an Individual Health Care Plans (IHP) or Education Health Care Plans (EHC) and require additional staff training. The school will endeavour to put arrangements in place to support that pupil as quickly as possible. However the school may decide (based on risk assessment) to delay the admission of a pupil until sufficient arrangements can be put in place.

### **Pupils with medical needs**

The school will follow Government guidance and develop an IHP or EHC for pupils who:

- Have long term, complex or fluctuating conditions – these will be detailed using Template 1 (Appendix 1)
- Require medication in emergencies – these will be detailed using Template 2 for mild asthmatics and Templates 3, 4, 5 and 6 for anaphylaxis (Appendix 1).

Parents/guardians should provide the Headteacher with sufficient information about their child's medical condition and treatment or special care needed at school. Arrangements can then be made between the parents/guardians, Headteacher, school nurse and other relevant health professionals to ensure that the pupil's medical needs are managed well during their time in school. Healthcare plans will be reviewed by the school annually or earlier if there is a change in a pupil's medical condition.

### **All prescribed and non-prescribed medication**

On no account should a child come to school with medicine if he/she is unwell. Parents may call into the school and administer medicine to their child, or they may request that a member of school staff administers the medicine. If a pupil refuses their medication, they should not be forced, the school will contact the parent/guardian and if necessary the emergency services. Pupils should not bring any medication to school for self-administration.

The school will keep a small stock of paracetamol, antihistamine or E45 cream for administration with parental consent (template B or gained at the time of administration) for symptoms that arise during the school day.

All other medication must be supplied by the parent/guardian in the original pharmacist's container clearly labelled and include details of possible side effects e.g. manufacturer's instructions and/or patient information leaflet (PIL). Medicines must be delivered to the school office with the appropriate consent form Template C and/or C1 (Appendix 2). The school will inform the parent/guardian of the time and dose of any medication administered at the end of each day on collection of medicine..

### **Confidentiality**

As required by the General Data Protection Act 2018, school staff should treat medical information confidentially. Staff will consult with the parent, or the pupil if appropriate, as to who else should have access to records and other information about the pupil's medical needs and this should be recorded on the IHP or EHC. It is expected that staff with contact to a pupil with medical needs will as a minimum be informed of the pupil's condition and know how to respond in a medical emergency.

### **Consent to administer medication**

Parental/guardian consent to administer medication will be required as follows:

- **Short term ad-hoc non-prescribed medication** - The school will request parent/guardian consent to administer ad-hoc non-prescription by either using Template B (Appendix 2) when the pupil joins the school OR by contacting the parent/guardian to gain consent at the time of administration (conversations will be recorded). The school will send termly reminders requesting parents/guardians to inform the school if there are changes to consent gained when the pupils joined the school. If the school is not informed of any changes by the parent/guardian, it will be assumed that consent remains current.
- **Prescribed and non-prescribed medication taken regularly** - each request to administer medication must be accompanied by 'Parental consent to administer medication form (Appendix 2 Template C and/or C1) or if applicable on the IHP).

### Prescription Medicines

**Medicine should only be brought to school when it is essential to administer it during the school day. In the vast majority of cases, doses of medicine can be arranged around the school day thus avoiding the need for medicine in school. Antibiotics for example are usually taken three times a day, so can be given with breakfast, on getting home from school and then at bedtime.** Administration will be recorded using Template D or E and the parent/guardian informed. Parents/guardians are expected to remove any remaining medicine from school once the prescribed course has been completed.

### Non-prescription Medicines

Under exceptional circumstances, where it is deemed that their administration is required to allow the pupil to remain in school, the school will administer non-prescription medicines. The school will not administer alternative treatments i.e. homeopathic or herbal potions, pills or tinctures or nutrition supplements unless prescribed or recommended by a Doctor and detailed on an IHP or EHC as part of a wider treatment protocol. As recommended by the Government in 'Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions December 2015' the school will also not administer aspirin unless prescribed. The storage and administration for non-prescription medication will be treated as prescription medicines.

If the relevant symptoms develop during the school day as detailed under the paragraph below 'short term ad-hoc non-prescribed medication' the school will administer the following non-prescription medications:

- paracetamol (to pupils of all ages)
- antihistamine
- hand cream as E45 for use only during the COVID 19 pandemic.

All other non-prescription medications will only be administered by staff, providing:

- The parent/guardian confirms daily the time the medication was last administered and this is recorded on Template C1 (Appendix 2);
- medication is licensed as suitable for the pupil's age;
- medication is suitable for the pupil i.e. if a child is asthmatic the medication is suitable for that condition;
- administration is required more than 3 to 4 times per day;
- medication is supplied by the parent or guardian in the original packaging with the manufacturer's instructions and/or (PIL);
- and accompanied by parental/guardian consent Template C and C1 (Appendix 2) and confirmation the medication has been administered previously without adverse effect;

The school will NOT administer non-prescription medication:

- as a preventative, i.e. in case the pupil develops symptoms during the school day;
- if the pupil is taking other prescribed or non-prescribed medication, i.e. only one non-prescription medication will be administered at a time;
- Any requirement for a non-prescription medication to be administered during school hours for longer than 48 hours must be accompanied by a doctor's note. In the absence of a doctor's note and if following the administration of a non-prescription medication symptoms have not begun to lessen in the first 48 hours the school will advise the parent to contact their doctor. If symptoms have begun to alleviate, the medication can continue to be administered at home out of school hours. Under very exceptional circumstances where the continued administration of a non-prescribed medication is required to keep the pupil in school and this requirement has not been documented by a medical professional the school will continue to administer medication at their own discretion
- A request to administer the same or a different non-prescription medication that is for the same/initial condition will not be repeated for 2 weeks after the initial episode; and not for more than 2 episodes per term - it will be assumed that the prolonged expression of symptoms requires medical intervention, and parents/guardians will be advised to contact their doctor.
- Skin creams and lotions will only be administered in accordance with the Schools Intimate Care Policy and procedures.
- Medication that is sucked i.e. coughs sweets or lozenges, will not be administered by the school.
- If parents/guardians have forgotten to administer non-prescription medication that is required before school, requests to administer will be at the discretion of the school and considered on an individual basis.

### **Short term ad-hoc non-prescribed medication**

A small stock of standard paracetamol, antihistamine and hand cream such as E45, will be kept by the school for administration if symptoms develop during the school day.

ONLY the following will be administered following the necessary procedures:

- For relief from pain
  - Standard Paracetamol will be administered in liquid or tablet form for the relief of pain i.e. period pain, migraine.
- For mild allergic reaction – anti-histamine (see Anaphylaxis) NB parental consent should be gained for those pupils known to require anti-histamine as part of their IHCP. Verbal consent to administer for hayfever will be gained at the time of administration by contacting the parents and this will be recorded in writing. In an emergency, medication can be administered with the consent of the emergency services.
- For travel sickness – medication will be administered if required before educational visits and must be age-appropriate and supplied by the parent/guardian in its original packaging with the PIL if available.
- For sore skin due to excessive washing during the COVID 19 pandemic E45 hand cream.

Only one dose of any of the above medications suitable to the weight and age of the pupil will be administered during the school day, with the exception of E45 hand cream, which may be administered as required with parental consent gained using template B.

#### **Pain relief protocol for the administration of paracetamol**

If a request for non-prescribed pain relief is made by a pupil or carer/staff (advocate for a non-verbal/non-communicating pupil) before 12pm:

- The school will contact the parent/guardian and confirm that a dose of pain relief (Paracetamol) was NOT administered before school, parents/guardians and if appropriate the pupil will also be asked if they have taken any other medication containing pain relief medication i.e. decongestants e.g. Sudafed, cold and flu remedies e.g. Lemsip and medication for cramps e.g. Feminax etc. and these conversations will be recorded. If a dose of pain relief has not been administered in the past 4 hours, the school will, with parental consent, administer one dose.
- If the school cannot contact the parent/guardian and therefore cannot confirm if pain relief (Paracetamol) was administered before school then the school will refuse to administer pain relief.

If a dose of pain relief has been administered before school:

- PARACETAMOL - The school will not administer paracetamol until 4 hours have elapsed since the last dose (assume 8:40am) no more than 4 doses can be administered in 24 hours.

If a request for pain relief is made after 12:40pm:

- The school will assume the recommended time between doses has elapsed and will, with parental consent, administer one standard dose of Paracetamol without any need to confirm with the parent/guardian if a dose was administered before school, but if appropriate the pupil will still be asked if they have taken any other medication containing pain relief medication and this conversation will be recorded.

The school will inform the parent/guardian if pain relief has been administered. This will include the type of pain relief and time of administration.

### **Asthma**

The school recognises that pupils with asthma need access to relief medication at all times. The school will manage asthma in school as outlined in the Asthma Toolkit. Pupils with asthma will be required to have an emergency inhaler and a spacer (if prescribed) in school. The school may ask the pupils parent or guardian to provide a second inhaler. Parents are responsible for this medication being in date and the school will communicate with the parents if new medication is required and a record of these communications will be kept. The school inhaler will only be used in an emergency and will always be used with a spacer as outlined in the Asthma Toolkit. The school complies with the School Nursing Service recommendation that staff administering asthma inhalers are trained in their administration and that training is renewed annually. The school will develop IHP's for those pupils with severe asthma and complete the Individual Protocol for pupils with mild asthma.

### **Anaphylaxis**

Every effort will be made by the school to identify and reduce the potential hazards/ triggers that can cause an allergic reaction to pupils diagnosed with anaphylaxis within the school population. The school complies with the School Nursing Service recommendation that staff who will be administering auto-injectors are trained and that training is renewed annually.

In accordance with the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) advice, the school will ask parent/ guardian(s) to provide two auto-injectors for school use. Parents are responsible for this medication being in date and the school will communicate with the parents if new medication is required and a record of these communications will be kept.

### **Mild Allergic Reaction**

Non-prescription antihistamine will, with parental consent, be administered for symptoms of mild allergic reaction (i.e. itchy eyes or skin, rash or/and redness of the skin or eyes) - the pupil must be monitored for signs of further allergic reaction. If antihistamine is not part of an initial

treatment plan, anaphylaxis medication will be administered following the guidance for short term ad-hoc non-prescribed medication.

Some antihistamine medication can cause drowsiness and therefore the school will consider if it is necessary for pupils to avoid any contact hazardous equipment after administration of the medication i.e. P.E. Science, Design and Technology.

### **Hay fever**

Parent(s)/guardian(s) will be expected to administer a dose of antihistamine to their child before school for the treatment of hay fever. **The school will only administer antihistamine for symptoms of allergic reaction and not as a precautionary measure.**

### **Severe Allergic Reaction**

Where a GP/Consultant has recommended or prescribed antihistamine as an initial treatment for symptoms of allergic reaction, this will be detailed on the pupils IHP. The school will administer one standard dose of antihistamine (appropriate to age and weight of the pupil) and it is very important that symptoms are monitored for signs of further allergic reaction. During this time, pupils must **NEVER** be left alone and should be observed at all times.

***If symptoms develop or there are any signs of anaphylaxis or if there is any doubt regarding symptoms then, if the pupil has been prescribed an adrenaline auto injector, it will be administered without delay, an ambulance called and the parents informed.***

### **Medical Emergencies**

In a medical emergency, first aid is given, an ambulance is called and parents/carers are notified. Should an emergency situation occur to a pupil who has an IHP or EHC, the emergency procedures detailed in the plan are followed, and a copy of the IHP or EHC is given to the ambulance crew. If applicable, the pupil's emergency medication will be administered by trained school staff. If the pupil's medication is not available, staff will administer the schools emergency medication with prior parental consent.

In accordance with amendments made to the Human Medicines Regulations 2012 from October 2014 a sufficient number of salbutamol inhaler(s) spacer(s) will be held by the school to cover emergency use. Parents are expected to provide two in-date auto-injectors for administration to their child, if the school does not hold two in-date auto-injectors for each pupil, then a suitable number of auto-injectors will be purchased for use by the school in an emergency.

Parental consent to administer the 'school inhaler and/or auto-injector' will be gained when the pupil joins the school using Template 2 for asthmatics and Templates 3, 4, 5 and 6 for anaphylaxis (Appendix 1). The school will hold a register of the pupils diagnosed with asthma

and/or anaphylaxis, and if parental consent has been given to administer the school medication. The school will be responsible for ensuring the school medication remains in date.

Instructions for calling an ambulance are displayed prominently by all telephones in the school. (Appendix 2 Template G)

### **Controlled Drugs**

The school does not deem a pupil prescribed a controlled drug (as defined by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971) as competent to carry the medication themselves whilst in school. Controlled drugs will be stored securely in a non-portable locked medicines cabinet in a locked room and only named staff will have access. Controlled drugs for emergency use e.g. midazolam will not be locked away and will be easily accessible. The administration of a controlled drug will be witnessed by a second member of staff and records kept. In addition to the records required for the administration of any medication, a record will be kept of any doses used and the amount of controlled drug stock held in school. (Appendix 2 Templates D and E)

### **Pupils taking their own medication**

For certain long-term medical conditions, it is important for children to learn how to self-administer their medication. Appropriate arrangements for medication should be agreed and documented in the pupil's IHP or EHC and parents should complete the self-administration section of 'Parental consent to administer medication' form (Template C Appendix 1).

### **Storage and Access to Medicines**

All medicines apart from emergency medicines (inhalers, adrenaline auto injector, midazolam etc.) will be kept securely (where access by pupils is restricted). Medicines are always stored in the original pharmacist's container. Pupils are told where their medication is stored and who holds the key and staff will be fully briefed on the procedures for obtaining their medication.

Emergency medicines such as inhalers, adrenaline auto injectors and midazolam must not be locked away. If appropriate, certain emergency medication can be held by the pupil, or kept in a clearly identified container in his/her classroom. The school will make an assessment as to the competency of each individual pupil to carry their own medication. Parents will be asked to supply a second adrenaline auto injector and/or asthma inhaler for each child and they will be kept in the First Aid Room. Staff must ensure that emergency medication is readily available at all times i.e. during outside P.E. lessons, educational visits and in the event of an unforeseen emergency like a fire.

Medicines that require refrigeration are kept in the fridge in the School Kitchen to which pupil access is restricted, and will be clearly labelled in an airtight container. There are specific arrangements in place for the storage of controlled drugs see page 7.

### **Waste medication**

Where possible, staff should take care to prepare medication correctly. If too much medication is drawn into a syringe, the remainder (amount above the required dose), should be returned to the bottle before administration. If only a half tablet is administered the remainder should be returned to the bottle or packaging for future administration.

If a course of medication has been completed or medication is date expired, it will be returned to the parent/guardian for disposal.

### **Spillages**

A spill must be dealt with as quickly as possible and staff are obliged to take responsibility/follow the guidelines. Spillages will be cleared up following the schools procedures and considering the control of infection. Any spilled medication will be deemed unsuitable for administration and, if necessary, parents will be asked to provide additional medication.

The school has additional procedures in place for the management of bodily fluids which are detailed in insert name of document i.e. bodily fluids risk assessment. If the school holds any cytotoxic drugs, their management will be separately risk assessed and will follow Health and Safety Executive (HSE) guidance.

### **Record Keeping – administration of medicines**

For legal reasons, records of all medicines administered are kept at the school until the pupil reaches the age of 24. This includes medicines administered by staff during all educational or residential visits. The pupil's parent/ guardian will also be informed if their child has been unwell during the school day and medication has been administered. For record sheets, see Appendix 2 Template D and E.

### **Recording Errors and Incidents**

If, for whatever reason, there is a mistake made in the administration of medication and the pupil is:

- Given the wrong medication
- Given the wrong dose
- Given medication at the wrong time (insufficient intervals between doses)
- Given medication that is out of date
- Or the wrong pupil is given medication

Incidents must be reported to the Schools Senior Management Team who will immediately inform the pupil's parent/guardian. Details of the incident will be recorded locally as part of the schools local arrangements. Local records must include details of what happened, the date, who is responsible and any effect the mistake has caused. Senior Management will investigate the incident and change procedures to prevent reoccurrence if necessary. NB: Incidents that

arise from medical conditions that are being well-managed by the school do not need to be reported or recorded locally.

### **Staff Training**

The school will ensure that staff that will have to administer any medication (Prescribed/non-prescribed) will have completed Managing Medicines in Schools training before they can administer medication to pupils. WSCC provides both e-learning and face to face training courses.

- The Lead and/or designated member of staff who will be overseeing administration of medication should complete a face-to-face course, this can be either a classroom session or Teams webinar.
- Other staff who will be administering medication may also attend face to face training but need to complete as a minimum, the elearning managing medicines and achieve a score of 100% on the managing medicines competency test. Staff should familiarise themselves with the schools medicines policy and other documentation.
- The school will ensure that the staff who administer medicine for specific chronic conditions are trained to administer those specific medicines, for example, Diabetes (insulin) Epilepsy (midazolam). Training in the administration of these specific medicines can be arranged via the school nursing service.
- School staff involved in administering auto injectors or asthma inhalers in an emergency must complete annual training.

A record of all training must be maintained to show the date of training for each member of staff and when repeat or refresher training is required.

### **Educational Visits (Off - site one day)**

Staff will administer prescription medicines to pupils when required during educational visits. Parents should ensure they complete a consent form (Appendix 2 Template C) and supply a sufficient amount of medication in its pharmacist's container. Non-prescription medicines as detailed in this policy may be administered by staff. Pupils must not carry non-prescription medication for self-administration.

All staff will be briefed about any emergency procedures needed with reference to pupils where needs are known and copies of care plans will be taken by the responsible person.

### **Residential Visits (overnight stays)**

The school acknowledges the common law 'duty of care' to act like any prudent parent. This extends to the administration of medicines and taking action in an emergency, according to the care plan.

Occasionally it may be necessary to administer non-prescription medicines as described in this policy i.e. antihistamine to pupils suffering from an allergic reaction or paracetamol for acute pain from things like headache, period pain, toothache etc. Parents must give written consent prior to the residential visit and sign to confirm that they have administered the medication without adverse effect.

The school will keep its own supply of the following non-prescription medication (Paracetamol & Antihistamine) for administration to pupils during a residential visit and parental consent will be required in order for the school to administer their supply (Appendix 2 Template C and C1). The medication will be stored and administration recorded as for prescription medicines. Pupils should not bring non-prescribed medication on the residential visit for self-administration.

### **Risk assessing medicines management on all off-site visits**

Pupils with medical needs shall be included in visits as far as this is reasonably practicable. School staff will discuss any issues with parents and/or health professionals so that extra measures (if appropriate) can be put in place. A copy of the pupil's IHP or EHP will be taken on the visit and detail arrangements relating to the management of their medication(s) during the visit should be included in the plan.

If a pupil requires prescribed or non-prescribed medication during a visit and an IHP or EHP has not been developed and the management of their medication differs from procedures followed whilst in school, the school will conduct a risk assessment and record their findings.

Travelling abroad – a risk assessment will be developed considering parental and medical advice and documented on the pupils IHP or EHP. If an IHP or EHP has not been developed, the school will record their findings. Best practice would be to translate these documents to the language of the country being visited. The international emergency number should be on the care plan (112 is the EU number). European Health Insurance Cards (EHIC) should be applied for by parents and supplied to the school prior to travel for all pupils that travel abroad.

The results of risk assessments however they are recorded i.e. IHP, EHP etc. will be communicated to the relevant staff and records kept of this communication.

### **Complaints**

Issuing arising from the medical treatment of a pupil whilst in school should, in the first instance, be directed to the Headteacher. If the issue cannot easily be resolved, the Headteacher will inform the governing body who will seek resolution.