

# St. Michael's School Administration of Medication Policy

#### St. Michael's School

### **Administration of Medication Policy**

# **Introductory Statement**

This policy is formulated in accordance with guidelines issued by the Primary Schools Managerial Bodies and the Irish National Teachers Organisation.

The policy has been further developed and reviewed by a sub-committee of the Board of Management comprising of the Principal, Teacher's Representative, Parents' Representatives, members of the In-School Management Team and also by representatives from the Parents Committee. Dr. Moya O'Beirne has been involved in the initial draft of this policy.

The Administration of Medication Policy should be read in conjunction with the School Information Booklet and with other relevant policies, e.g. Substance Use Policy, Policy on Tours/Outings etc.

Copies will be available on request to parents/guardians and a copy of this policy is found in the 'Policies' folder located in all classrooms. In addition, a copy will be available on the 'Aladdin' website for access by staff.

Medication in this policy refers to oral medicines i.e. liquids, tablets and inhalers administered by mouth only, topical creams or lotions and Epi-pens.

# **Rationale and Background**

While the Board of Management has a duty to safeguard the health and safety of pupils when they are engaged in authorized school activities this does not imply a duty upon staff members to personally undertake the administration of medicines. It is school policy that children who are ill should not attend school until the illness has resolved. When administration of medication is required, every effort will be made to accommodate pupils' needs. It must be remembered that staff administering medication are non-medical professionals and are doing so in a voluntary capacity.

#### Relationship to Characteristic Spirit of the School

In accordance with St. Michael's School Mission Statement, we commit ourselves to "provide a secure, healthy and caring environment which values the uniqueness of each person". To this endeavour, it may be necessary that medication be administered to pupils. This policy establishes the protocol which is to be followed when such a situation arises.

#### Aims

The aims of this policy are to:

- Ensure that the needs of pupils who require administration of essential medication during the school day are met, in line with best practice.
- Ensure compliance with relevant legislation.
- Protect staff by ensuring that any involvement in medication administration complies with best practice guidelines.

# **Objectives:**

The objective of this policy is to outline procedures that the school will follow when administering medication to pupils.

#### **Guidelines / Procedures**

Medicines should only be taken to school when essential, that is, where it would be detrimental to a child's health if the medicine were not administered during the school day. Non- prescription medications will not be stored or administered in the school, with the exception of pain relief for menstruation (see page 6, paragraph on pain relief). St. Michael's School will only accept medicines that have been prescribed by a medical professional. Pupils are not permitted to carry non-prescription medication in schools. If found such medications will be confiscated and parents/guardians will be contacted.

Parents/Guardians must ensure that the School is made aware in writing of any medical condition suffered by their son/daughter.

Prescription medication for our pupils can only be stored/administered in the school following a written request from the Parents/Guardians to the Board of Management (Appendix 1). In doing so, the Board of Management must determine if the medication is such that a staff member can administer the medication. The Board of Management reserves the right, after due consideration, to refuse the request to administer medication.

Where a pupil is suffering from a life-threatening condition, parents/guardians must outline clearly, in writing, what can and can't be done in a particular emergency situation, with particular reference to what may be a risk to the pupil.

# Procedure to be followed by Parents/Guardians who require the administration of medication for their children:

• Parents/Guardians must write to the Board of Management requesting the Board to authorize staff member(s) to administer the medication by completing the "Request of Administration – Information and Consent" form (Appendix 1), summarising the essential information (this will also include a letter from the GP and a copy of the prescription) to allow school staff safe administration of medication.

- The Board will check all documentation is in order before approval is granted. This 'Request of Administration-Information and Consent form' contains the following information:
  - ➤ Parent/Guardian's full name, address and contact number
  - ➤ The pupil's full name
  - ➤ The pupil's address if different from above
  - > The exact dosage and time of administration
  - ➤ The circumstances in which medication is requested to be given by the staff member
  - > Any known allergies.
  - > GP name, address and telephone number.
  - ➤ Whether the pupil should be responsible for self-administering his/her medication in the presence of the person designated by the Board of Management
  - ➤ The procedure to be followed in the administration and storing of the medication
  - > A copy of the prescription.
  - ➤ A letter from the GP/Consultant
  - > Signed consent to administer the appropriate medication
  - > Signature of Parent/Guardian

It is helpful, where clinically appropriate, if medicines that are prescribed in close frequencies are enabled to be taken outside of school hours. Parents could be encouraged to ask the prescriber about this. It is to be noted that medicines that need to be taken three times a day could be taken in the morning, after school hours and at bedtime.

Parents/Guardians are further required to indemnify the Board of Management and staff members in respect of any liability that may arise regarding the administration of prescribed medications in school. An Indemnity Form (Appendix 2) will be provided to Parents/Guardians to be completed to this effect. The Board of Management will inform the school's insurers accordingly.

Details must be completed on the Epilepsy Information Sheet (Appendix 3), the Asthma Information Sheet (Appendix 4) and/or the Anaphylaxis Information Sheet (Appendix 5) if the pupil suffers from the(se) condition(s).

Where permission has been given by the Board of Management for administration of medicine the smallest possible dose should be brought to school, preferably by the parent/guardian, with clear written instructions for administration, giving the name of the pupil and a copy of the prescription. All medication should be in its original packaging (trade name, generic name, expiry date and dosage should be clearly legible).

In the event that the parent/guardian is unable to come to the school, medication should be given to the Bus Escort who will store it securely. This medication will be handed into the school office where a handover sheet for the medication (Appendix 6) will be signed by both parties.

Parents/Guardians are responsible for the provision of medication and should keep account to ensure that medication is available.

All medication must be in its original container as dispensed by a pharmacist and include the prescriber's instructions for administration.

In the event that medications arrive to the school in inappropriate packaging, such medications will not be administered by staff during school hours. Parents will be contacted and advised accordingly.

Parents/Guardians should ensure that inhalers required by asthmatic pupils are sent to school and these will be readily accessible at all times of the school day.

A Teacher/Special Needs Assistant should not administer medication without the authorization of the Principal. Any staff member who agrees to take responsibility for medicines must be adequately instructed and trained in the administration of same. No staff member takes on a responsibility that he/she is not competent to carry out. Allianz: Risk Management.

Prior to any medication being administered Parent/ Guardian must meet with the Principal to explain the procedure and to confirm the information on the personal medication plan matches the prescription.

Changes in prescribed medication (or dosage) should be notified immediately to the school with clear written instructions of the procedure to be followed in storing and administering the new medication. These should be accompanied by a copy of the new prescription.

Parents are required to provide a telephone number where they may be contacted in the event of an emergency arising.

Parents/Guardians should ensure that these procedures are clearly understood before submitting any request to the Board of Management.

Requests for administration of medication should be renewed at the beginning of each school year and /or as need arises.

# **Procedure for Safe Storage of Medication**

Medication administered daily by the Principal/School Secretary will be stored in a secure/locked press in the Office. Emergency medication will be kept in the pupil's school bag and the bag will travel with them. During break times the bag will remain in the pupil's classroom. A second supply will be requested and stored in the locked First Aid Press in the foyer, the key for which is hanging in the key press. If such emergency medication is administered parents will be notified by telephone by the relevant staff member.

For pupils in receipt of regular medications parents are advised to provide a weekly/monthly supply of medication to the school. This must be in a properly labelled container /package. Under no circumstances are staff permitted to transfer

medication from one container to another. Where a pupil needs two or more prescribed medicines, each should be in a separate container.

Inhalers should be kept in the pupil's bag and the bag will travel with them. During break times the bag will remain in the pupil's classroom.

St. Michael's school will not accept medicines that have been taken out of the container as originally dispensed nor make changes to dosages on parental instructions.

Staff are responsible for making sure that medicines are stored securely.

### Procedures for Staff members for administration of medications

All pupils who require administration of medications will have a personal medication plan (Appendix 7) which will be completed by parent/guardian in conjunction with GP/Consultant. Plans will be placed in each pupil's file. Each plan will be accompanied by an up to date prescription which is attached to the plan. The Personal Medication Plan must detail all medications required by the child and any emergency/ medications as required.

In the event that Emergency medication is required staff can only administer medications as approved by the Board of Management. Please see Appendix 3.2 for the Protocol relating to Action to be taken in the event of an Epileptic Seizure. In the event that an emergency arises and staff are unable to administer the necessary medications, parents will be contacted and emergency services will be contacted as necessary.

Where a change has occurred in medications an updated personal medication plan and prescription is required. The Principal will draw a line diagonally across the previous medication plan and prescription sheet and date it to indicate it is no longer in use and place on record in the pupil's file.

The staff member is responsible for ensuring that the following is correct before administering any medication:

- 1. Pupil's name is correct
- 2. The following information on the medication label and prescription/medication plan correlate:
  - 1. Pupil's name
  - 2. Medication name
  - 3. Dosage
  - 4. Route and form
  - 5. Time to be given
- 3. Check that the medication has not already been administered by another staff member.

- 4. The pupil where possible comes to the office or designated area to receive medication. A staff member administers medication and remains with pupil until the medication is taken.
- 5. Medication is administered by the relevant staff member and witnessed.
- 6. Once medication has been administered, the administrating staff member and witness signs in the appropriate space on the medication recording chart (Appendix 8)
- 7. In the event that a pupil refuses medication, it must be documented and parents notified
- 8. Staff should not dispose of medicines. Date expired medicines or those no longer required for treatment should be returned to the Parent/Guardian, either directly or via the Bus Escort.

#### **Pain Relief**

If a pupil brings pain relief with her to school to address menstruation pain, the medication should be self-administered where possible and must be given into the office on arrival to school. The bus escort should be informed by the parent/guardian that medication is in the child's bag. A note must be provided by the parent/guardian for the school, stating the exact dosage which may be taken and at the time it is to be taken at. A telephone call is made by the school secretary/Principal/Deputy Principal to confirm the contents of the note and instructions. The Board of Management is informed at the next Board of Management meeting.

The school accepts no responsibility when a pupil brings medication to be taken during the course of the school day without parental consent and/or notifying staff.

In the event of a specific and/or isolated injury/procedure resulting in a child requiring pain relief during the school day, parents/guardians are welcome to come to the school to administer said pain relief to the child at the required time.

# Procedure in the event of a Medication error occurring

The Board of Management encourages the reporting of medication incidents to ensure pupil safety and to have a means of assessing and improving medication processes. Staff who become aware that a medication error has occurred should

- 1. Notify the principal/ deputy who contact the parent/guardian and inform them of the incident.
- 2. The school would seek advice from medical emergency services/ Poisons Unit in Beaumont Hospital (01 8092566 or 01 8379964) and follow advice given
- 3. Ask parents to contact GP.
- 4. Continue to observe pupil until parent arrives and in the event of an adverse reaction causing concern contact emergency services.
- 5. Document the medication incident on incident reporting form and maintain in pupil's file.

# **Procedure in the event of Missing Medication**

In the event of medication going missing the following must occur:

- 1. Principal is informed and incident report completed.
- 2. Principal must immediately initiate local enquiries/ search to establish the facts related to the medication incident.
- 3. A review of control measures will take place and additional controls put in place if deemed necessary.
- 4. The incident of unaccounted for or missing medication must be reported to the next Board of management meeting.
- 5. A copy of the incident report is stored according to local procedures for file management.

# **Roles and Responsibility**

Medications required to be administered on a daily basis will be done so by the Principal/School Secretary. Medicines should be self-administered by the pupil if possible under direct supervision of the Principal/School Secretary, and witnessed by class SNA or other staff member. Medications should not be administered without a witness present.

A staff member can administer medication / emergency medication when necessary or when pupils are on school outings, once all incidences of same are recorded in the Medication Administration Form (Appendix 8, available in the school office) and done in the presence of a witness.

Emergency medication will be administered by the staff member in the presence of another staff member, and where possible the Principal/Deputy Principal should be present.

Pupils who require the use of an inhaler must inform a staff member before using this medication. All information with regards to inhalers must be recorded on the Asthma information sheet (Appendix 4) to be completed by parents/ guardians. Once administered an account of this must be recorded on the 'Medication Administration Form' specific for this pupil. This sheet will be kept in the class blue folder along with I.E.Ps etc.

# **Education/Training of Staff**

Staff will receive training and input from suitably qualified persons on the management of Safe Administration of Medications. This will be reviewed on a regular basis and/or as need arises. A record of training signed by staff will be maintained.

# **Policy Links**

Health, Safety & Welfare Statement
Child Protection Policy
Substance Use Policy
Policy on Managing Chronic Health Conditions
School Outing Policy
Life long Illness / Medical Conditions Policy
Accident/Illness Policy
Lunchtime Policy

#### **Success Criteria**

This policy will ensure the effective and proper administration of prescribed medication to pupils.

A record of same will be available from the office.

# **Timeframe for Implementation & Review**

This policy will be put in place with immediate effect and will be reviewed at the beginning of each school year or as necessary with the Principal having responsibility for co-ordinating this review. This review will include all procedures, including how they are working in practice.

#### **Ratification and Communication**

In draft form this policy was firstly given to members of the In-School Management Team, extended to other members of this team in November 2008. When due account was taken of any amendments, this policy was presented the Board of Management on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2008. The policy was amended and was represented to the Board for ratification on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2009. Recommendations made at this meeting were included and agreement on its ratification reached. The policy was revised again in September 2011.

This policy was further amended in consultation with all staff in November 2016 and presented to the Board for ratification on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017.

# Request for Administration of Medication to Pupils- Information and Consent

Request to the Board of Management of St. Michael's Special School.

Parents/Guardians name(s):		
Address:		
Telephone numbers:		
Emergency contact no.:		
Child's name:		_
Date of Birth:		
Address (if different from abo	ove):	
Name of medication:		
Dosage:		
Time to be given:		
_	ould medication be given:	
Condition for which medicati	ion is required:	
My child CAN/CANNOT sel	lf- administer this medication under direc	t supervision.
GP name:		
GP Address:		
GP Phone no.:		

1 I/We the parents/guardians of	ask
the Board of Management to allow a member	
2. I/We enclose a letter from Dr	stating:
<ul> <li>Why the medication is needed</li> <li>Name of medication</li> <li>Time the medication should be admir</li> <li>Procedure to be followed for the safe</li> <li>Dosage to be administered</li> </ul>	
Copy of the prescription	
3. Should there be any change in medication, Management notifying them of same.	I/We will write to the Board of
4. I/We understand that the school's insurance	ee will be notified of this arrangement.
5. I/We understand that information about my will be shared with relevant school staff and or other medical personnel.	
Signed:	Date:
Parent/Guardian	
Signed:	Date:

Parent/Guardian

# Appendix 2:

# **Indemnity Form**

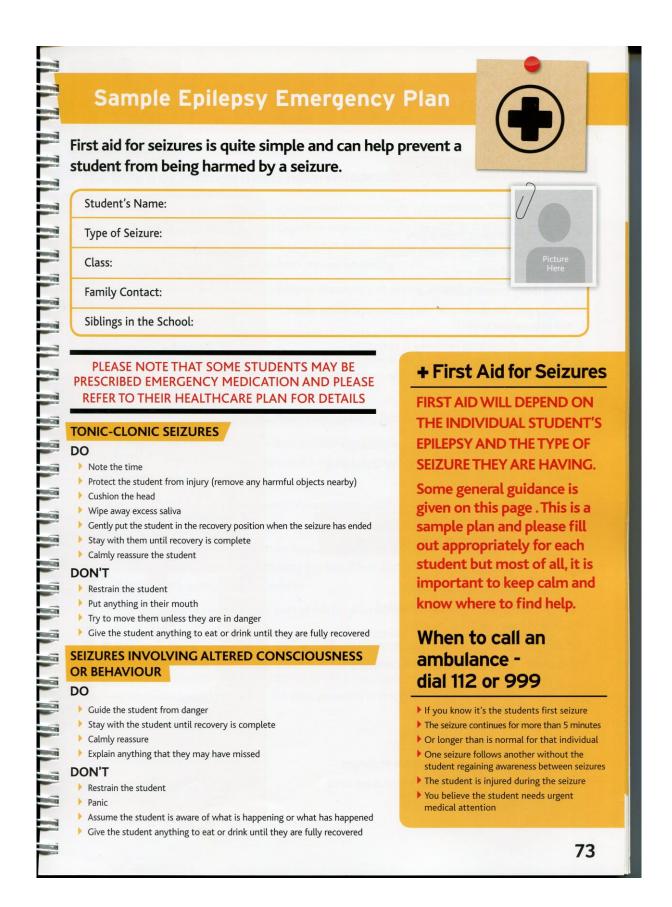
I/We		_
Parents/Guardians of	f	_
	chael's School or any staff member liable for any consequences,	
-	the future, arising from the administration or failure to administer	
	forms of treatment, provided this was done in accordance with the	,
_	otocol on the 'Administration of Medication Policy' of St.	
Michael's School.		
Signature of Parer	at(s)/Guardian(s):	
1 <sup>st</sup> Signature:		
2 <sup>nd</sup> Signature:		
Signature:		
	Principal/School Secretary	
Date:		

# Appendix 3 **Epilepsy Information Sheet Pupil's Name:** Date first diagnosed with Epilepsy Description of what the seizure looks like Warning sign (aura), if applicable How long the seizure last How long of a rest is usual after a seizure? What first aid may be required? Frequency of seizures and pattern, if any? Any other relevant information which you think the school should have with regards to your child's condition.

Signed:		
	Parent/Guardian	
Date:		

# Appendix 3.1

# **Individual Epilepsy Emergency Plan**



# EPILEPSY ACTION TO BE TAKEN IN THE EVENT OF A SEIZURE

A first responder on site is to alert the class teacher or teacher on duty immediately and begin to time the seizure.

The first responder will attend to the pupil with the support of the teacher in class or on duty.

The teacher will redirect all other staff and pupils away from the scene.

The Principal is to be notified immediately in the event of a seizure. In the absence of the Principal, the Deputy Principal, school management team is to be notified.

DO	DO NOT
KEEP CALM	Do not move the child unless
<ul> <li>Ensure their head is protected</li> </ul>	they are near harmful objects
from hard surfaces. If not use	<ul> <li>Do not put anything in the</li> </ul>
clothing, i.e. rolled up	child's mouth
coat/jumper or your hand.	<ul> <li>Do not try to hold the child's</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Loosen clothing around the</li> </ul>	tongue
neck to keep their airway clear	<ul> <li>Do not try to hold down the</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Time length of seizure</li> </ul>	child during the seizure

Pupil emergency medication should be administered as per Personal Medication Plan.

# Call an ambulance if any of the following occur:

- Seizure is longer than what is usual for the pupil after protocols have been followed (emergency medication, where provided, should be administered)
- Seizure is unusual for the pupil and no protocols are in place
- You are concerned for the child's safety
- Evidence the child is choking, unable to breathe, injured
- If one seizure follows another and the child does not regain consciousness in between seizures.
- IF IN DOUBT PHONE

#### After the seizure:

- Check the child is breathing normally
- Remain with the child and reassure him/her when they regain consciousness
- Inform the parents
  - 1. Describe the seizure
  - 2. Length of the seizure
  - 3. How the child was after the seizure
  - 4. Record in accident/illness book

# Asthma Information Sheet Pupil's Name:

Date first diagnosed with Asthma	
Details of inhaler/medication being used, if any	
If an inhaler is used, have you supplied one to the school, clearly labelled with your child's full name?	
Where should this inhaler be stored or should it be on the child at all times?	
How often must the inhaler be used?	
Is there a certain sport/activity that may bring on the need to use the inhaler?	
Can the child use the inhaler him/herself?	
If no, when should a staff member administer the inhaler? What does an attack look like for your child? How will a staff member know it is necessary to administer the inhaler?	
Emergency contact details	
Any other relevant information which you think the school should have with regards to your child's condition.	
Signed:Parent/Guardian	
Date:	

## Appendix 4.1

# **Individual Asthma Emergency Plan**

#### Sample Asthma Emergency Plan THE FIVE MINUTE RULE contains the recommended steps to follow if a child has an asthma attack. Student's Name: Class: Family Contact: Siblings in the School: Common signs of an asthma attack Important things ▶ Coughing ▶ Shortness of breath ▶ Wheezing to remember in an ▶ Feeling tight in the chest ▶ Sometimes younger children asthma attack express feeling tight in the chest as a tummy ache ▶ Being unusually quiet ▶ Difficulty speaking in full sentences Requesting use of the blue reliever inhaler Opting out of exercise Never leave the student having an asthma attack **EMERGENCY PROCEDURE** If the student does not have their inhaler and/or spacer with them, send another THE FIVE MINUTE RULE assigned room to get their spare inhaler and/or spacer Do ... In an emergency situation, school staff are Keep calm, attacks can be frightening and it is important to stay calm required under common law duty of care and reassure the student to act like any reasonably prudent parent ▶ Encourage the student to sit up and slightly forward — do not hug them or lie them down Reliever medicine is very safe. During an Encourage the student to breath slowly and calmly and ensure tight asthma attack do not worry about a clothing is loosened student overdosing Make sure the student takes their reliever inhaler (usually blue) immediately - preferably through a spacer: TWO puffs if MDI (metered Send another student to get another teacher/adult if an ambulance needs to dose inhaler) / evohaler, ONE puff if turbohaler If there is no immediate improvement Continue to make sure the student takes the reliever inhaler every Contact the student's parents immediately minute for five minutes or until their symptoms improve after calling the ambulance/doctor Call an ambulance or a doctor urgently if the: A member of staff should always Student's symptoms do not improve in 5-10 minutes accompany a student taken to hospital Student is too breathless or exhausted to talk by ambulance and stay with them until their parent arrives Student's lips are blue or if you are in any doubt > The parents must always be told if their Ensure the student continues to takes one puff child has had an asthma attack of their reliever inhaler every minute until the ambulance or doctor arrives.

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**Anaphylaxis Information Sheet** 

Pupil's Name:		
Date first diagnosed w	ith Anaphylaxis	
Description of what th looks like	e allergic reaction	
Allergic to		
Warning sign, if applic	cable	
Normal procedure following of emergency medication		
What first aid may be	required?	
Previous history regard emergency medication		
Any other relevant info think the school should your child's condition.	d have with regards to	
Signed:	Parent/Guardian	
Date:		

# Appendix 5.1

# **Individual Emergency Anaphylaxis Plan**



# **Medication Handover Sheet**

Date	Name of Pupil	From	То
		Signature	Signature
	l		

Appendix 7:			
Personal Medicati	on Plan (placed in each pupil'	s file where a	applicable)
Name of Pupil: Date of Birth:			
Known Allergies_			
Date commenced	Medication(s) prescribed	Dose	Time to be administered
	ation:		
Any other details	(Possible side effects)		
How is medication	n taken, any special precaution	as eg before o	or after food etc.
Can self administe	er under supervision Yes	NO	
Signed by:			Parent/Guardian
Date :			

Medication Administration Form	
Pupil's Name:	Date Of Birth:

Date	Medication Administered by (Signature)	Dose	Time Given	Witness Signature

In the event that medication is refused, please complete form including Date and name of medication. Insert "Refused" in section under Time and sign.