



Policy on Medicines in School

Document Control - Document Details		
Document Name	Oathall Community College Medicines in School Policy	
Purpose of Document	Policy and statement of intent for managing medicines in school at Oathall.	
Document Version number	4.5	
Document Owner	Jo Godbolt Zoe Froud	
Prepared by	Jo Godbolt Zoe Froud	
Document location	T:\0-School Administration\01-College Policies\Approved Policies 2024-2025	
Date of first draft	8 May 2017	
Date Approved	January 2025	
Approved by	Governing Body	
Next scheduled review date	January 2026	
Version History		
Version number	Date Approved	Change/Reasons for Change/Comments
1		New policy
2	15 May 17	Removes reference to MKW and replaces with reference to Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for <u>Inclusion</u> . Pastoral Team Includes insurance section Includes new Asthma guidance on emergency inhalers Includes new guidance on number of times paracetamol can be administered by school in a day New section on antihistamine and allergies New section on recording incidents
3	12 November 2018	Updated in line with WSCC model policy dated June 2018 Discussed and further amended in line with school operational practices at LT meeting 16 October 2018.
4	21 October 2020	Reviewed by ZF. No changes required. In line with WSCC policy.
5	28 November 2022	Removed reference to HoH and replaced with HoY. Removed reference to Jo Godbolt and replaced with Zoe Froud Removed reference to EG and replaced with ZF



Policy on Medicines in School

Distribution list		
Governors		
Head		
Leadership Team		



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 Oathall Community College will ensure that these arrangements fulfil their statutory duties and follow guidance outlined 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.

Organisation

The governing body will develop policies and procedures to ensure the medical needs of pupils at Oathall Community College are managed appropriately. They will be supported in the implementation of these arrangements by the Headteacher and school staff.

The Lead for Managing Medicines at Oathall is Zoe Froud, Assistant Headteacher, or in her absence Jo Godbolt, Business Manager. The practical application of this policy is delegated to the Assistant Head of Year (AHoY) with responsibility for the medical welfare of students, or in their absence another Assistant Head of Year in the pastoral team. 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 Oathall community will be made aware of - and have access to - this policy. This policy will be reviewed biennially and its implementation reviewed as part of the Headteacher's report to Governors.

Insurance

Staff who follow the procedures outlined in this policy and who undertake tasks detailed in the RMP (Risk Management Partners) Medical Malpractice Treatment Table are covered under WSCC insurance policies. The medical audit is available to view on West Sussex Services for Schools under 'guide to insurance for schools'. Claims received in respect of medical procedures not covered by the insurers will be considered under the Council's insurance fund.

Admissions



Policy on Medicines in School

When the school is notified of the admission of any pupil the Business Systems Manager will seek parental consent to administer short term ad hoc non-prescriptions medication using the text from 'WSCC Template B'. This is included on the consent section of the school's admissions form. They will enter the consent permission on the student Bromcom record.

For in-year admissions the business systems manager will ensure the AHoY is informed about any students with a medical need. For students joining in year 7 medical information is collated as part of the transition process.

An assessment of the pupil's medical needs will be completed. This might include the development of an Individual Health Care Plan (IHP) or Education & Health Care Plan (EHCP) 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 EHCP for pupils who:

- Have long term, complex or fluctuating conditions – these will be detailed using the WSCC Pupil Health Information form template.
- Require medication in emergency situations – asthmatics, and for anaphylaxis.

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 the school stores the medication for the student to administer under supervision. 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, ibuprofen and antihistamine, for administration with parental consent for symptoms that arise during the school day.



Policy on Medicines in School

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 reception with the appropriate parental consent form. The school will inform the parent/guardian of the time and dose of any medication administered at the end of each day by phone call or email.

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 EHCP. It is expected that staff who have contact with 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.



Policy on Medicines in School

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 medication by either using the consent section on the student Bromcom record OR if this has not been completed for any reason, by contacting the parent/guardian to gain consent at the time of administration (conversations will be recorded).
- The school will send annual 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.** Each request to administer medication must be accompanied by a 'Parental consent to administer medication form' or, if applicable, as detailed on the IHP.

Prescription Medicines

Medicine should only be brought to school when it is essential to administer it during the school day. Oathall rarely allows the administration of prescribed medicines during the school day. 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. Parents are requested to ask their GP to prescribe antibiotics to be taken in 3 doses.

Administration will be recorded in the 'medication administered' record book 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, herbal or nutritional supplements unless prescribed or recommended by a Doctor and detailed on an IHP or EHCP as part of a wider treatment protocol. For storage and administration, non-prescription medication will be treated as prescription medicines.



Policy on Medicines in School

If the relevant symptoms develop during the school day the school will administer the following non-prescription medications:

- paracetamol (to pupils of all ages)
- ibuprofen (pupils age 12 and over)
- antihistamine



Policy on Medicines in School

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

- The parent/guardian confirms daily the time the medication was last administered and this is recorded on the 'parental consent to administer medication' form;
- 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 medication is accompanied by parental/guardian consent using the appropriate form (C or CI) and includes 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 for more than 48 hours. Parents will be advised to contact their Doctor if symptoms persist; any requirement for the administration of non-prescription medication for more than 48 hours must be accompanied by a note from the pupils General Practitioner (GP) confirming dose and length of administration. Any request to administer non-prescription medication for more than 48 hours must be approved by the School Nursing Service and a record kept. If the medication is sucked i.e. coughs sweets or lozenges it 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. Decisions will be made by the AHoY team.

A request to administer the same or a different non-prescription medication for the same/initial condition may 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.

Short term ad-hoc non-prescribed medication

A small stock of standard paracetamol, ibuprofen and antihistamine will be kept by the school for administration if symptoms develop during the school day.



Policy on Medicines in School

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.
Standard ibuprofen will only be administered in tablet form to pupils age 12 and over for period pain, migraine and muscle/skeletal disorders involving inflammation i.e. joint sprains.
Ibuprofen will NOT be administered to any pupil diagnosed with asthma.
- For mild allergic reaction – antihistamine (see Anaphylaxis)
- 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.

Only 1 dose of any of the above medications, suitable to the weight and age of the pupil, will be administered during the school day.

Pain relief protocol for the administration of paracetamol and ibuprofen

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 or Ibuprofen) 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 1 dose.
- If the school cannot contact the parent/guardian and therefore cannot confirm if pain relief (Paracetamol and Ibuprofen) 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 8am). No more than 4 doses can be administered in 24 hours.



Policy on Medicines in School

- Ibuprofen - The school will not administer Ibuprofen at all during the school day if it has been administered at home before school.

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

- The school will assume the recommended time between doses has elapsed and will, with parental consent, administer 1 standard dose of Paracetamol or Ibuprofen 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 report 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 pupil's 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. 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 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, which recommends that all staff are trained in the administration of auto injectors and that training is renewed annually.

In accordance with Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) advice the school will ask parent(s)/ guardian(s) to provide 2 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. A record of these communications will be kept.



Policy on Medicines in School

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.



Policy on Medicines in School

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 pupil's IHP. The school will administer 1 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 the - 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 involving a pupil who has an IHP or EHCP, the emergency procedures detailed in the plan are followed, and a copy of the IHP or EHCP 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 school's 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 2 in date auto-injectors for administration to their child. If the school does not hold 2 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. The school will hold a register of the pupils diagnosed with asthma and/or anaphylaxis, including an indication that 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 the telephone in the first aid room.



Policy on Medicines in School

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 to which 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. Separate records are required in this situation – available on the WSSfS site.

As this is an infrequent occurrence in school, any situation involving a student taking a controlled drug will need to be assessed by the Business Manager and Assistant Head to ensure correct procedures are being followed.

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 EHCP and parents should complete the self-administration section of 'Parental consent to administer medication' form.

Storage and Access to Medicines

All medicines apart from emergency medicines (inhalers, adrenaline auto injectors, 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 this medication.

Emergency medicines such as inhalers and auto injectors 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 school office. Staff must ensure that emergency medication is readily available at all times i.e. during P.E. lessons delivered outside, on educational visits and in the event of an unforeseen emergency such as a fire.

Medicines that require refrigeration are kept in the first aid room fridge 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.



Policy on Medicines in School

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 school's 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.

If the school holds any cytotoxic drugs, their management will be separately risk assessed and 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. Records are passed to the Business Manager to be archived. The pupil's parent/ guardian will also be informed if their child has been unwell during the school day and medication has been administered.

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



Policy on Medicines in School

these incidents must be reported to the Assistant Headteacher or in their absence the Business Manager who will immediately inform the pupil's parent/guardian. Details of the incident will be recorded locally as part of the school's 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 a sufficient number of staff complete Managing Medicines in Schools training before they can administer medication to pupils. The school will also ensure that other staff, who may occasionally need to administer a medicine, are instructed and guided in the procedures adopted by the school. This guidance will be given by the person who has completed the Managing Medicines course. Staff given instruction by the Lead for Medicines must complete a competency test and achieve a score of 100% in order to administer medication.

Supply and locum staff will be given appropriate instruction and guidance in order to support the pupils with medical needs in their care. All school staff are trained annually to administer an auto-injector and asthma inhaler in an emergency.

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.

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 is arranged via the school nurse.

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 and supply a sufficient amount of medication in its pharmacist's container. Non-prescription medicines as detailed in this policy can 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.



Policy on Medicines in School

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 non-prescription medication for administration to pupils during a residential visit, and parental consent will be required in order for the school to administer their supply (a separate consent form C2 is provided for residential trips). 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 pupils IHP or EHCP 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 visit and an IHP or EHCP 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 its findings.

Travelling abroad

A risk assessment will be developed considering parental and medical advice and documented on the pupil's IHP or EHCP. If an IHP or EHCP has not been developed, the school will record its findings. Best practice would be to translate these documents into 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 who travel abroad.



Policy on Medicines in School

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

Complaints

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