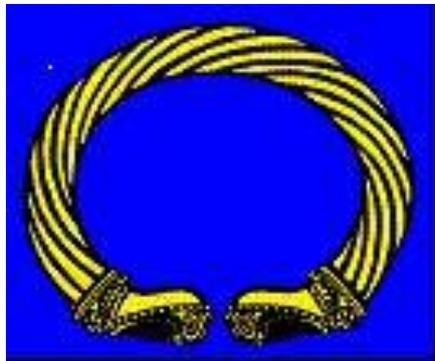


A policy for supporting pupils at school with medical conditions



Snettisham Primary School

May 2015

(draft policy pending Governors' approval on July 16th 2015)

Policy Statement

From time to time children get ill and may need time off from school, a visit to the doctor and a prescription to help them recover. Generally they begin to feel better before the prescription has finished and are well enough to continue with their education. There are also children who may be on long term medication due to conditions eg: asthma, eczema, allergies etc. At Snettisham Primary School we recognise the need to enable children to take prescribed medication during the academy day.

Aims

The aim of this policy are to

- enable regular attendance at school.
- Support parents in enabling continuation of essential medication.
- Enable equality of access to education for all.

Although the word 'parent' will be used throughout this policy, clearly this also means 'carer' where appropriate.

Managing Prescription Medicines Which Need to be Taken During the School Day

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

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

WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ACCEPT MEDICINES WHICH HAVE BEEN TAKEN OUT OF THE CONTAINER AS ORIGINALLY DISPENSED NOR MAKE CHANGES TO DOSAGES ON PARENTAL INSTRUCTIONS.

It is helpful, where clinically appropriate, if medicines can be prescribed in dose frequencies which enable it to be taken outside school hours. Parents will be encouraged to ask the prescriber about this. Medicines that need to be taken three times a day could be taken in the morning, after school and at bedtime.

*All emergency medicines, such as asthma inhalers and adrenaline pens, should be readily available to children and should not be locked away.

Managing Prescription Medicines on Trips and Outings

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

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

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

Sporting Activities

At Snettisham School most children with medical conditions can, and indeed are, positively encouraged to participate in physical activities and extra-curricular sport. However, any restrictions on a child's ability to participate in P.E. should be recorded in their individual health care plan.

Some children may need to take precautionary measures before or during exercise and may also need to be allowed immediate access to their medicines such as asthma inhalers. Health care plans are completed and updated regularly for children who have conditions such as asthma, epilepsy, diabetes or anaphylaxis.

Roles and Responsibilities of Staff Managing the Administration of Medicines and for Administering or Supervising the Administration of Medicines

No child under 16 should be given medicines without their parent's written consent. Any member of staff giving medicines to a child should check:

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

* If in doubt about any procedure, staff should not administer the medicine but check with the parents or a health professional before taking further action. However in the event of an emergency, and particularly for those pupils who have a care plan, the procedure outlined in the care plan will be followed.

Each time a medicine is given to a child, the member of staff administering the medicine must record it. The forms for this purpose are held in the appropriate folder in the school office. By completing these forms, we are demonstrating that we have exercised a duty of care.

All medicines, apart from asthma inhalers and other medicines which have been identified as being necessary for the pupil to have with them at all times, will be handed in to the school office. It may then be necessary to refrigerate the medicine, or lock it away in a medicine cupboard. Medicines which need to be refrigerated will be kept in the refrigerator. There will be restricted access to this refrigerator. The medicines in here will need to be stored in their original containers and clearly labelled.

The parent of the child taking the medicine will be asked to complete a parental consent form in order for the medicine to be taken at school. Parents should tell us about the medicines that their children need to take and provide details of any changes to the prescription or the support required.

Self-Management of Medicines

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

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

Refusing Medicines

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

Parental Responsibilities in Respect of Their Child's Medical Needs

Parents should tell school about the medicines that their child needs to take and provide details of any changes to the prescription or the support required. However, staff will also need to make sure that this information is the same as that provided by the prescriber and is consistent with the instructions on the container. Parents will also need to provide the school with any information relating to predisposed conditions which we need to be made aware of.

Medicines should always be provided in the original container as dispensed by a pharmacist and include the prescriber's instructions. In all cases it is necessary to check that written details include:

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

Situations in Which Children May Take Any Non-Prescriptive Medicines

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

A CHILD UNDER 16 SHOULD NEVER BE GIVEN ASPIRIN OR MEDICINES CONTAINING IBUPROFEN UNLESS PRESCRIBED BY A DOCTOR. THEREFORE, WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ADMINISTER THESE MEDICINES WITHOUT A DOCTOR'S PRESCRIPTION.

Long Term Medical Needs

It is important to have sufficient information about the medical condition of any child with long-term medical needs. A health care plan for these children, involving the parents and the relevant health professionals, will enable the appropriate support to be provided.

The health care plan will include:

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

Staff Training

Staff regularly have training in a variety of health issues including the use of Epipens, the treatment of general injuries, diabetes awareness etc. First Aid training is also available to staff. Staff are also aware of the procedure for cleaning a wound, the type of dressing to apply and understand the need to contact parents in an emergency. Where a child has a specific long-term medical condition, identified staff will receive specific training, where relevant.

First Aid Kits

These are checked and updated regularly and are in clearly marked positions around academy.

First Aiders

All staff are Emergency First Aid trained. Mrs. J. Adcock is the fully trained First Aider and is also the Paediatric First Aider.

Equal opportunities

This policy applies to all children regardless of their gender, colour, ethnicity, ability or disability, religion or nationality.

Monitoring & review

The implementation and impact of this policy will be monitored and the policy reviewed every three years.

Links to Other Policies

- Attendance Policy
- Anti-Bullying policy
- Safeguarding Policy

Date of Publication: May 2015

Review Date: May 2018

Person responsible for review: Executive Headteacher

Appendix A

Parental Agreement for Snettisham Primary School to Administer Medicine

The school will not give your child medicine unless you complete and sign this form

Date	
Child's Name	
Class	
Name and Strength of Medicine	
Expiry Date	
How much to give (i.e. dose to be given)	
When to be given	
Reason for Medication	
Number of tablets/quantity to be given to the academy	
Time Limit- Please specify how long your child needs to be taking the medication	

Note: Medicines must be in the original container as dispensed by the pharmacy

Daytime phone number of parent/carer	
Name and phone number of GP	
Agreed review date to be initiated by named member of staff	

The above information is, to the best of my knowledge, accurate at the time of writing and I give consent to academy staff to administer medicines in accordance with the school policy.

Administration of medicines in Snettisham Primary School

I confirm that the medicine detailed overleaf has been prescribed by a doctor, and that I give my permission for the Executive Headteacher (or his/her nominee) to administer the medicine to my son/daughter during the time he/she is at the academy. I will inform the school immediately, in writing, if there is any change in dosage or frequency of the medication or if the medicine is stopped.

Parent's signature _____ Date _____
(Parent/Guardian/Person with parental responsibility)

I give permission for my son/daughter to carry their asthma inhaler with them whilst at the academy and to manage its use.

Parent's signature _____ Date _____
(Parent/Guardian/Person with parental responsibility)

Notes of Guidance

- The Executive Headteacher (or his/her nominee) will only administer medicines prescribed by a doctor/dentist/prescribing nurse.
- This form should be completed by the parent or guardian of the pupil and be delivered personally, together with the medicine to the Executive Headteacher of his/her nominee.
- The medicine should be in date and clearly labelled with:
 - its contents;
 - the owner's name
 - dosage
 - the prescribing doctor's name
- The information given overleaf is requested, in confidence, to ensure that the Executive Headteacher is fully aware of the medical needs of your child.

While no staff member can be compelled to give medical treatment to a pupil, it is hoped that the support given through parental consent, the support of the Trust through these guidelines, and the help of the School Medical Service will encourage them to see this as part of the pastoral role. Where such arrangements fail it is the parents' responsibility to make appropriate alternative arrangements.