
ESSEX HEIGHTS PRIMARY SCHOOL
ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT

Many students attending school need medication to control a health condition. It is necessary that teachers (as part of their duty of care) assist students, where appropriate to take their medication. Essex heights Primary School will ensure the student's privacy is maintained and will exercise sensitivity towards this issue to avoid any stigmatisation.

PURPOSE

To explain to parents/carers, students and staff the processes Essex Heights Primary School will follow to safely manage the provision of medication to students while at school or school activities, including camps and excursions.

SCOPE

This policy applies to the administration of medication to all students. It does not apply to:

- the provision of medication for anaphylaxis which is provided for in our school's Anaphylaxis Policy
- the provision of medication for asthma which is provided for in our school's Asthma Policy
- specialised procedures which may be required for complex medical care needs.

POLICY

If a student requires medication, Essex Heights Primary School encourages parents to arrange for the medication to be taken outside of school hours. However, Essex Heights Primary School understands that students may need to take medication at school or school activities. To support students to do so safely, Essex Heights Primary School will follow the procedures set out in this policy.

Authority to administer

If a student needs to take medication while at school or at a school activity:

- Parents/carers will need to arrange for the student's treating medical/health practitioner to provide written advice to the school which details:
 - the name of the medication required
 - the dosage amount
 - the time the medication is to be taken
 - how the medication is to be taken
 - the dates the medication is required, or whether it is an ongoing medication
 - how the medication should be stored.
- In most cases, parents/carers should arrange for written advice to be provided in a Medication Authority Form which a student's treating medical/health practitioner should complete.

- If advice cannot be provided by a student's medical/health practitioner, the principal (or First Aid Officer) may agree that written authority can be provided by, or the Medication Authority Form can be completed by a student's parents/carers.
- The principal or First Aid Officer may need to consult with parents/carers to clarify written advice and consider student's individual preferences regarding medication administration (which may also be provided for in a student's Student Health Support Plan).

Parents/carers can contact the Front Office or the First Aid Officer for a Medication Authority Form. Forms may also be downloaded from the school's website (under Health Centre).

Administering medication

Any medication brought to school by a student needs to be clearly labelled with:

- the student's name
- the dosage required
- the time the medication needs to be administered.

Parents/carers need to ensure that the medication a student has at school is within its expiry date. If school staff become aware that the medication a student has at school has expired, they will promptly contact the student's parents/carers who will need to arrange for medication within the expiry date to be provided.

If a student needs to take medication at school or a school activity, the principal (or First Aid Officer) will ensure that:

1. Medication is administered to the student in accordance with the Medication Authority Form so that:
 - the student receives their correct medication
 - in the proper dose
 - via the correct method (for example, inhaled or orally)
 - at the correct time of day.
2. A log is kept of medicine administered to a student.
3. Where possible, two staff members will supervise the administration of medication.
4. The teacher in charge of a student at the time their medication is required:
 - is informed that the student needs to receive their medication
 - if necessary, release the student from class to obtain their medication.

Self-administration

In some cases it may be appropriate for students to self-administer their medication. The principal/First Aid Officer may consult with parents/carers and consider advice from the student's medical/health practitioner to determine whether to allow a student to self-administer their medication.

If the principal/ First Aid Officer decides to allow a student to self-administer their medication, the principal may require written acknowledgement from the student's medical/health practitioner, or the student's parents/carers that the student will self-administer their medication.

Storing medication

The principal (or First Aid Officer) will put in place arrangements so that medication is stored:

- securely to minimise risk to others
- in a place only accessible by staff who are responsible for administering the medication

- away from a classroom (unless quick access is required)
- away from first aid kits
- according to packet instructions, particularly in relation to temperature.

For most students, Essex Heights Primary School will store student medication at the First Aid Centre.

The principal/First Aid Officer may decide, in consultation with parents/carers and/or on the advice of a student’s treating medical/health practitioner:

- that the student’s medication should be stored securely in the student’s classroom if quick access might be required
- to allow the student to carry their own medication with them, preferably in the original packaging if:
 - the medication does not have special storage requirements, such as refrigeration
 - doing so does not create potentially unsafe access to the medication by other students.

Warning

Essex Heights Primary School will not:

- in accordance with Department of Education and Training policy, administer analgesics such as aspirin and paracetamol as a standard first aid strategy as they can mask signs and symptoms of serious illness or injury except on authority from parents/guardians.
- allow a student to take their first dose of a new medication at school in case of an allergic reaction. This should be done under the supervision of the student’s parents, carers or health practitioner
- allow use of medication by anyone other than the prescribed student except in a life threatening emergency, for example if a student is having an asthma attack and their own puffer is not readily available.

Medication error

If a student takes medication incorrectly, staff will endeavour to:

Step	Action
1.	If required, follow first aid procedures outlined in the student’s Health Support Plan or other medical management plan.
2.	Ring the Poisons Information Line, 13 11 26 and give details of the incident and the student.
3.	Act immediately upon their advice, such as calling Triple Zero “000” if advised to do so.
4.	Contact the student’s parents/carers or emergency contact person to notify them of the medication error and action taken.
5.	Review medication management procedures at the school in light of the incident.

In the case of an emergency, school staff may call Triple Zero “000” for an ambulance at any time.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Appendices which are connected with this policy are:

- Appendix A: Medication Authority Form
- Appendix B: Medication Administration Log

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated in June 2018 and will be reviewed annually or more often if necessary due to changes in regulations or circumstances..

George Perini

Kristen Steer

Principal

School Council President

School Council June 2018



Medication Authority Form

For a student who requires medication whilst at school

This form should be completed ideally by the student's medical/health practitioner, for all medication to be administered at school. For those students with asthma, an Asthma Foundation's *School Asthma Action Plan* should be completed instead. For those students with anaphylaxis, an ASCIA *Action Plan for Anaphylaxis* should be completed instead.

Please only complete those sections in this form which are relevant to the student's health support needs.

Name of School: Essex Heights Primary School

Student's Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Medic-Alert Number (if relevant): _____ Review date for this form: _____

Please Note: wherever possible, medication should be scheduled outside the school hours, e.g. medication required three times a day is generally not required during a school day: it can be taken before and after school and before bed.

MEDICATION REQUIRED

Name of Medication/s	Dosage (amount)	Time/s to be taken	How is it to be taken? (e.g. orally/topical/injection)	Dates
				Start Date:
				End Date:
				Ongoing: <input type="checkbox"/>
				Start Date:
				End Date:
				Ongoing: <input type="checkbox"/>

MEDICATION STORAGE

Please indicate if there are specific storage instructions for the medication:

MEDICATION DELIVERED TO THE SCHOOL

Please ensure that medication delivered to the school:

- Is in its original package
- The pharmacy label matches the information included in this form

MONITORING EFFECTS OF MEDICATION

Please note: School staff *do not* monitor the effects of medication and will seek emergency medical assistance if concerned about a student's behaviour following medication.

AUTHORISATION

Name of Medical/Health Practitioner: _____

Signature: Contact Details	Date:
-------------------------------	-------

PARENT/GUARDIAN/CARER AUTHORISATION

Name of Parent/Guardian/Carer _____

Signature:	Signature:
------------	------------

If additional advice is required, please attach it to this form

Appendix B



MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION LOG

For students requiring medication to be administered at school

This log should be completed by the staff member administering medication to any student at the school.

Name of student: _____ Year level: _____

Date	Time	Name of Medication and Dose	Tick when checked ✓				Comments	Staff member administering (print name and initial)	Staff member checking* (print name and initial)
			Correct Child	Correct Medication	Correct Dose	Correct Route			

***Cross-checking:** It is recognised that in many school settings medication is administered using a system of two staff members checking that medication is correctly administered. This is an appropriate added safety measure and is seen as good practice.