

Administration of Medicines Policy

This Policy is to be read in conjunction with our Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions Policy and our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

Introduction

Schools are expected to develop policies on managing medicines and to put in place effective management systems to support individual children with medical needs. At Cranwell Primary School we believe that positive responses to a child's medical needs will not only benefit the child directly but can also positively influence the attitude of their peers.

All members of staff have a duty to maintain professional standards of care and to ensure that our pupils are safe. In response to the Equality Act 2010, we make essential adjustments for pupils with additional needs including those with medical needs. In response to the requirement to support pupils at school with medical conditions, we also produce individual healthcare plans and make essential adjustments to enable pupils with medical needs to participate, as fully as possible, in all areas of school life, including educational visits and sporting activities.

There is no legal or contractual duty on staff to administer medicine or supervise a child taking it, however, staff are first aid trained. In an emergency, swift action must be taken by any member of staff to assist any child and teachers and school staff have a common law duty of care to act like any reasonably prudent parent. This duty also extends to staff leading activities taking place off-site, such as visits, outings or field trips.

Objectives and targets

The purpose of this policy, in conjunction with the policy on Supporting Pupils at School with ongoing Medical Conditions, is to put into place effective management systems and arrangements to support those children with medical needs in our school and to provide clear guidance for staff and parents/carers on the administration of medicines, so that all children with a medical requirement can be cared for well while in the school.

Action plan

At Cranwell Primary School all prescribed and non-prescribed medicines are never administered without the completion of the 'short-term medication plan' form. For non-prescribed medication, a discussion must take place between the parents and school staff.

For any child who will need to have medicine administered at school on a regular basis, a pupil HealthCare Plan will be drawn up in consultation with the school, parents/carers and health professionals. The HealthCare Plan will outline the child's needs and the level of support required in school. It will be reviewed once a year or as and when needed.

No child under 16 will be given medicines without their parent's written consent so any parent wishing their child to have medication administered must complete the form 'parent request for the school to administer medication' (see Appendix 1).

If a child refuses to take medicine, staff must not force them to do so, but should note this in the records along with the reasons for refusal and any action then taken by the staff member. Parents will be informed of the refusal as soon as possible on the same day. If a refusal to take medicines results in an emergency, the school's emergency procedures should be followed.

Children with medical needs have the same rights of admission to school as other children and cannot generally be excluded from school for medical reasons. Occasionally though a pupil's presence on the school site may represent a serious risk to the health or safety to themselves or to other pupils, or school staff. On this rare occasion, the headteacher may send the pupil home that day after consultation with the parents. This is not a suspension and may only be done for extreme medical reasons.

Roles and Responsibilities: School Staff

The Headteacher, in consultation with the Governing body, the Safeguarding team, SENCO, Staff, Parents/Carers and Health Professionals – will decide how our school can assist a child with medical needs. The Headteacher is responsible for:

- Implementing the policy on a daily basis.
- Ensuring that the procedures are understood and implemented.
- Ensuring appropriate training is provided.
- Making sure that there is effective communication with parents/carers, pupils, staff and all relevant health professionals concerning pupils' health needs.

- Determining if medication is to be administered in school, and by whom, following consultation with staff. Ensuring that all members of staff are aware of the school's planned emergency procedures in the event of medical needs.

All staff are informed of pupils with ongoing medical needs via the Health Care Plan.

For short-term medical needs, the Class teacher and Staff at the office will be made aware.

All medicine will normally be administered during breaks and lunchtimes. If, for medical reasons, medicine has to be taken during the day, arrangements will be made for the medicine to be administered at other prescribed times. Pupils will be told where their medication is kept and who will administer it.

Any member of staff giving medicine to a pupil should check on each occasion:

- Name of the pupil.
- Written instructions are provided by the parents/carers or doctor.
- That the medication is labelled and provided in the original container as dispensed by a pharmacist and includes the instructions for administration, dosage and storage. (The exception to this is insulin which must still be in date, but will generally be available to schools inside an insulin pen or a pump, rather than in its original container).
- The expiry date of the medication and of the request to administer it.

If in doubt about any procedure, staff should not administer the medicines but check with the Headteacher and parents or a health professional before taking further action. If staff have any other concerns related to administering Medicine to a particular child, the issue should be discussed with the Headteacher and parent, if appropriate, or with a health professional attached to the school.

Staff must also complete and sign the form 'school record of the administration of medication' (see Appendix 2) each time they give medicine to a child. If the circumstances require an intimate or invasive treatment then this will only take place at the discretion of the Headteacher and Governors, with written permission from the Parents/Carers and only under exceptional circumstances. Two adults must be present for the administration of such treatment. Cases will be agreed upon and reviewed on an annual basis. All such treatments will be recorded.

School staff involved in the administration of medicines will receive training and advice from health professionals. Training for all staff will be offered on a range of medical needs, as and when appropriate. Details of all training will be recorded on the staff training record.

School staff will undertake a risk assessment to ensure the safety of all participants in educational visits and to enable, as far as possible, all pupils to have access to all activities and areas of school life. No decision about a child with medical needs attending/ not attending a school visit will be taken without prior consultation with Parents/Carers and SENCO. The same will apply for residential visits and sufficient essential medicines and appropriate health care plans will be taken and controlled by the member of staff supervising the visit.

At Cranwell Primary School we request parents/carers to administer medication to their children at home if at all possible. Where clinically possible, medicines should be prescribed in dose frequencies which enable them to be taken outside school hours. Medicines will only be administered at school when it would be detrimental to a child's health or school attendance not to do so. No medication will be administered without prior written permission from the parents/carers including written medical authority if the medicine needs to be altered (e.g. crushing of tablets). A 'Short term Medication Plan' form must be completed (see Appendix 1). If medical attention is required during the school day staff will contact 111 for professional advice and refer to the 'contacting emergency services' information (appendix 3)

It is the responsibility of Parents/Carers to:

- Inform the school of their child's medical needs.
- Provide any medication in a container clearly labelled with the following:
- The child's name.
- Name of medicine.
- Dose and frequency of medication.
- Any special storage arrangements.
- Ensure that medicines have NOT passed the expiry date.

Carrying and storage of medicines

For safety reasons, pupils are not allowed to carry medication unless agreed on an individual basis. All other medicines must be handed to the class teacher / or office on entry to the school premises where they will be kept locked in the medical room and logged onto the school's file. Pupils must be made aware of where their medication will be stored.

Pupils' inhalers, which must be labelled with the pupil's name will also be stored in the medical room unless the pupil needs to carry their own inhaler and they must not be locked away.

Where children have been prescribed controlled drugs, these should be given to the school office which must have given 'Headteacher consent to administer the drugs' (Appendix 4). He or she will ensure that the drugs are kept in safe custody and will administer with another member of staff in accordance with the consent. Staff should keep a daily record of the quantity of medication given and the total left in the cupboard. Children should know where their medicines are at all times and staff must be able to access them immediately. All staff will have access to the storage facility. Medicines and devices such as asthma inhalers blood glucose testing meters and adrenaline/EpiPen should be always readily available to children and not locked away, unless it is a controlled drug. It is particularly important to remember to take medicines when leaving the school premises e.g. on school trips.

Staff medication

Staff members must store their personal medication securely and out of reach of pupils at all times. Paracetamol (if available) for general use by adult staff only will be stored separately and can only be accessed through signing for it.

Monitoring and evaluation

The school will monitor and review the individual needs of pupils and administer medicines in order to meet the all-round needs of each child on an ongoing basis. An annual report to governors on the administration of medicines throughout the school will be prepared and analysed by the SEND Team to monitor the efficacy of this policy and it will be evaluated in the light of its findings.

Review

The policy will be reviewed following the discussion by the Governors of the annual report on the administration of medicines and changed accordingly where necessary.

Adopted March '25.

Appendix 1

SHORT TERM MEDICATION PLAN

PARENT REQUEST FOR SCHOOL TO ADMINISTER MEDICATION

School cannot give your child medicine unless you complete and sign this form **and** the headteacher has agreed that school staff can administer the medication.

Personal Details

Name of Pupil:
Contact Telephone Number:
Condition or Illness:

Medication

Name/type of medication: (as described on the container)
Special storage requirements:
Date dispensed:
How long will your child take this medication?

Full directions for use

Dosage:
Frequency/timing:
Method:
Any particular problems with administration?
Side effects:

Parental declaration

I will ensure that the appropriate staff members are aware when medicine arrives at school. I will complete another form if any of the above information changes.

Signature:

Date:

Relationship to child:

Appendix 2

SCHOOL RECORD OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION

Name of Pupil:
Name of medication:
Dosage:

Date and time of administration (or refusal)	Administrator	Alteration to medication (if any)	Side effects (if any)	Signature (of staff member or pupil if self-administering)

Appendix 3

CONTACTING EMERGENCY SERVICES

(School to pre-load this form, as far as possible, with all relevant information.)

Request for an ambulance: dial 999, ask for ambulance and be ready with the following information:	
School's telephone number	
School location	
School postcode	
Give the exact location within the school	
Give your name	
Give name of child/adult and a brief description of their symptoms	
Inform ambulance control of the best entrance and state where the crew will be met and taken to	
Date and time of call	

Speak clearly and slowly and be ready to repeat information if asked. Put a completed copy of this form by the telephone.

Appendix 4

HEADTEACHER AGREEMENT TO ADMINISTER CONTROLLED DRUGS

Name of School	
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It is agreed that	(name of child)
will receive	(quantity and name of medicine)
every school day at	(times medicine to be administered eg lunchtime or afternoon break)

Name of child:	Will be given/supervised while he/she takes their medication by: (member of staff)
This arrangement will continue until:	(either end date of course of medicine or until instructed by parents/carers)

Date:

Signed:
(Headteacher/named member of staff)