

## Medicines Policy

### 1. Guiding Principles

1.1 Clear policies, understood and accepted by staff, parents and students, provide a sound basis for ensuring children with medical needs receive proper care and support at school. This policy will promote, where possible, regular school attendance. The formal procedures drawn up in partnership with parents, staff and healthcare professionals where appropriate support this policy.

This policy has regard to the government guidance 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions', Department for Education, December 2015 and 'Guidance on the use of emergency adrenaline auto-injectors in schools', September 2017 . It applies to all students in The Stephen Perse Foundation (the **Foundation**), including those in Early Years.

1.2 The administration of medicines is a parent's/carer's responsibility, although older children have the right to be responsible for their own welfare (Children Act 1989). If medicines need to be taken during the school day, the parent/carer should make arrangements for them to be given by they themselves or by a representative. This policy is necessary because the Foundation has agreed to provide that 'representative'.

1.3 Foundation staff are not required to administer medication and have the right to refuse to be involved. Staff who do administer medicines must understand the basic principles and be aware of the legal liabilities involved. They must have confidence in dealing with any emergency situations as they arise. Knowledge of medical conditions will assist them with this.

1.4 This policy sets out the circumstances in which students and staff may take prescription (POM - prescription only medicines) and non-prescription medicines (over-the-counter medicines). It advises on assisting students with long-term or complex medical needs with regard to administering their required medication. It covers the prior written agreement from parents/carers for the administration of medicine to a child. It addresses students carrying their own medication and administering it. It discusses staff training in managing medical needs. It gives guidance on record-keeping, storage and access to medicines and the Foundation's emergency procedures.

1.5 Parents are asked to provide the Foundation with full, up-to-date information about their child's medical needs. Staff noticing deterioration in a pupil's health should inform the relevant Head of School, Pastoral Leader and/or School Health Practitioner who will liaise with parents.

### 2. Safety

2.1 Some medicines may be harmful to anyone for whom they are not prescribed. By agreeing to administer medicines on the premises, the Foundation has a duty to ensure that the risks to others are properly controlled. This duty derives from the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations

(COSHH).

### **3. Storage**

3.1 The School should not store large volumes of medicines. Medicines should be locked in a secure cupboard to which only designated staff have access. These are stored in each school in the locations below:

- City Pre-Prep – Individual non refrigerated medicines are kept in the child’s classroom, in named boxes, refrigerated medicines are stored in the JS First Aid Room fridge.
- Madingley Pre-Prep - Individual non refrigerated medicines are kept in the child’s classroom, in named boxes. Refrigerated medicines are stored in the Staff Room fridge.
- Junior School - in the Medical Room in the year bags.
- Senior School – in the left-hand Medical Room.
- Sixth Form - in the the labelled cupboard behind Reception.
- Dame Bradbury’s - in the cupboard behind Reception.

The exceptions are medicines and devices, such as inhalers and Jext pens/Epipens (including emergency medicines provided and held by the Foundation), which need to be readily available where staff and children know where to locate them quickly, and medicines carried by students themselves (see paragraph 4 below).

3.2 Medicine should be stored in the original container in which it was dispensed, clearly marked with the name of the drug and pupil when it is a prescribed medicine. Where students with specific needs bring medicine into school, such as to complete a course of treatment thereby minimising the absence from school, the drug needs to be clearly labelled with the name of the pupil, the name of the drug, the dosage and frequency of administration and instructions for storage. Form 1 should be completed by the parent/carer. Students should know where their own medication is stored. The School Healthcare Practitioner is responsible for making sure that medicines are stored safely. This responsibility may be delegated to an appropriate nominated person.

3.3 A record should be kept of medicines stored in each School, including controlled drugs, for whom and doses used.

3.4 Legislation recognises that children have the right to take responsibility for their welfare (the Children Act 1989). The Patient’s Charter Services for Children and Young People (Department of Health April 1996) states that students have a right to expect access to inhalers whilst at school. Therefore students should be allowed to carry their own asthma inhalers or have clear knowledge of where they are in a centralised place in the individual School, and be able to use them as required. Form 3 should be completed to allow this. Students should have had previous instruction on correct usage and their technique regularly checked by the Asthma Nurse during their annual check-up. This also applies to those students carrying medication for other conditions, such as students carrying adrenaline (Jext pen/Epipen) and/or antihistamine for allergic reactions, those carrying insulin or hypostop to control diabetes, those carrying pancreatin (creon) to aid digestion for medical conditions such as cystic fibrosis and those carrying analgesia to control migraine/severe period pains.

3.5 Some medicines need to be refrigerated. Medicines can be kept in the refrigerators located in the Medical Rooms in the Senior and Junior School, in the fridge in the Sixth Form Office, in the Staff Room at Dame Bradbury's and Medical Rooms in Madingley and City Pre-Preps. Access to the refrigerators should be restricted to designated members of staff only.

#### **4. Access**

4.1 Students must know where their medicines are kept and be able to access them immediately. If relevant, they must know who holds the key to a locked storage facility. However, it is important that medicine is only available to those for whom it has been prescribed. Sixth Form students are deemed competent to carry their own medicines. Senior School students may carry their own medicines with parental consent but must not allow other students to have access to them. Junior School and Pre-Prep students may not carry their own medicines. After discussion with parents, children who are competent are encouraged to take responsibility for managing their own medicines and procedures. This may require an appropriate level of supervision.

#### **5. Hygiene/Infection Control**

5.1 All staff should be familiar with normal precautions for avoiding infection and follow basic hygiene procedures. Staff should have access to protective disposable gloves and take care when dealing with spillages of blood or other bodily fluids and when disposing of dressings and equipment. There is a yellow bin in the Medical Room at the Junior School and Dame Bradbury's and in the Medical Room toilet in the Senior School; the yellow bin is located in the staff toilet in the Staff Room at Madingley Pre-Prep for disposal of 'bloody' dressings/tissues. Please refer to the 'protection from blood-borne viruses' section of the First Aid and Emergency Procedures for further information.

#### **6. Standing Orders**

6.1 If a student suffers regularly with acute pain, such as migraine, the parents/carers should authorise and supply appropriate analgesia (pain relief) for their child's use, with written instructions about how and when to administer the medication. A member of staff should supervise the pupil taking the medication and notify the parents/carers on the day it is taken using Form 4.

#### **7. Administering Medication**

7.1 Medicines should only be administered in school when it would be detrimental to a child's health or school attendance not to do so. Written parental consent will be sought for administering prescription medication to pupils under the age of 16. Form 5 should be completed. The exception is when the medicine has been prescribed to the child without the parents' knowledge. In this circumstance, every effort should be made to encourage the child to involve his/her parents whilst respecting their right to confidentiality.

7.2 Any staff giving medicine to a pupil should check:

- The pupil's name;
- The pupil's date of birth;
- The written instructions provided by the prescriber on the label or container;
- The drug to be given by generic or brand name;

- The strength of the medication;
- The prescribed dose;
- The maximum dosage;
- The last time the pupil had the medication;
- The frequency of the medication;
- The route of administration;
- Any allergies or existing medical conditions that may contraindicate the medication;
- The expiry date of the drug;
- The circumstances in which the drug is to be administered;
- Their own ability / training needs to administer the drug; and
- The possible side effects of the drug and what to do if they occur.

7.3 An accurate written record of all medication administered (Form 6) must be kept. A record of the medication administered should be made in the pupil's medical log. A written record of medication administered must be given to the parents/carers of younger students informing them of the drug, dose and time administered (Form 4). Form 6 needs to be completed, to ensure an accurate record is kept of the amount of medication administered. All adverse reactions must be recorded, both in the First Aid Room Records and the pupil's medical notes.

7.4 Overseas medicines (herbal or otherwise) must have an English translation, the pupil's name on it and a doctor's prescription letter. Parents and pupils must inform the relevant School Office of any medication being sent to school and have a discussion with the School Healthcare Practitioner in order to decide whether the medication is appropriate in school. Non-identifiable medication will not be allowed on site.

## **8. Circumstances in which Medicines may be Administered**

8.1 Over the counter medicines may be administered by staff assessed by the relevant Head of School as competent to do so. Members of staff accompanying school trips will be given written information about over-the-counter medications, which they might be required to administer. On a student's entry to the Foundation, all parents/carers must complete a medical consent form which gives permission for the School Healthcare Practitioner or designated First Aider to administer specific over the counter medicines.

8.2 Students aged 16 or over are able to consent to the administration of medicines without parental consent. However, if the School Healthcare Practitioner has any concerns regarding the administration of any medicines to these students, medication will be withheld until the parents/carers can be contacted.

8.3 Paracetamol (including Calpol) may be administered for headaches, pyrexia (temperatures) abdominal pains, toothache, and other conditions when deemed appropriate. It may also be administered to those students who are unable to tolerate Non Steroidal Anti-inflammatories (NSAIDs) such as Ibuprofen, for example asthmatic students.

8.4 Ibuprofen may be administered for dysmenorrhoea (painful menstruation), migraine, injuries, such as sporting injuries, and other injuries. If a pupil requires hospital care, full details of any medication given must be handed to staff at the Accident and Emergency Department. Ibuprofen will be withheld from all asthmatic students unless otherwise instructed by the parents.

8.5 Analgesia will normally be withheld in cases involving head injury.

8.6 Antihistamines (Piriton/Cetirizine) may be administered for mild allergic reaction. A bottle of antihistamine liquid or tablets will be accessible at all times for allergic reactions at each school site.

8.7 Aspirin will not be administered unless prescribed by a doctor.

8.8 If the designated adult has any concerns regarding the administration of any medicine to a pupil, the medication will be withheld until the parents/carers have been contacted.

8.9 Prescription Only Medicines (POMs) will be administered by the School Health Practitioner in the Senior School and Sixth Form or a first aid trained designated member of staff or other staff assessed as competent in her absence with the written consent of the parents.

8.10 The medicines generally (but not exclusively) administered include adrenaline (in the form of an Epipen/Jext pen), Salbutamol, Cetirizine (Zirtek) analgesia and antibiotics. These should only be administered from the original containers containing the written prescription – this includes the name and date of birth of the student. The name of the drug and the strength and the timing of administration should all be legible. The individual healthcare plan (if applicable) should be referred to for allergic reactions.

8.11 Senior School and Sixth Form students with long-term medical needs who carry their own medication and self-medicate should be encouraged to take ownership of their medication and administer it safely. No students will be allowed to share medication and should be encouraged to act responsibly to safeguard their own health and that of their peers. These students include those with asthma carrying inhalers and those known to have anaphylactic reactions requiring prompt administration of adrenaline (epipen/Jext pen). Those with other medication may include those students with diabetes and epilepsy. The School Healthcare Practitioner will provide support for them and they should have individual healthcare plans drawn up in conjunction with their parents and healthcare professionals. Subsequently, parents have the ultimate responsibility for any medication required to treat their son/daughter's condition.

8.12 Students known to have anaphylactic reactions will have an individual healthcare plan to advise on the treatment of their condition. These are kept with the Epipen/Jext pen for individual students. It is also good practice for Form 1 (Request for School to Administer Medication) confirming parental consent to administer the medication to be kept with the Epipen/Jext pen and the healthcare plan as in these circumstances, time is of the essence.

8.13 The Foundation holds spare adrenaline auto-injector (AAI) devices for use in emergencies, in accordance with the Human Medicines (Amendment) Regulations 2017. These are for any student who holds both medical authorisation and parental consent for an AAI to be administered. The AAIs can be used if the student's own prescribed AAI is not immediately available (for example, because it is broken, out-of-date, has misfired or been wrongly administered). Please refer to the Foundation's Emergency Adrenaline Auto-Injector Procedures at Appendix C of the Foundation's Supporting Pupils with Medical

Conditions for further information.

8.14 The School Healthcare Practitioner is responsible for training staff in the administration of emergency adrenaline. All staff are required to complete annual training on this. Those assessed as competent will be allowed to administer the medication should the need arise. A list of staff who have completed training will be recorded.

8.15 Should the need arise for the administration of adrenaline, the staff member should stay with the pupil and either telephone Reception/School Office directly or send someone to the School Office to obtain help. The School Healthcare Practitioner can be contacted via the School Office or by mobile phone.

8.16 If adrenaline is administered, prompt transfer to hospital should be arranged by calling 999. Please see the First Aid and Emergency Procedures for further information.

8.17 A record of administration will be held in the First Aid Room (Form 6) and the pupil's medical records should be updated. Administration records are held in the School Office for Dame Bradbury's.

8.18 Support should be provided for those witnessing the event and time allowed to talk through concerns raised.

## **9. Privacy**

9.1 All students are entitled to privacy for the administration of medicines, especially those students requiring invasive techniques such as injections. This maintains the dignity of the pupil but also lessens the distress of fellow students, especially if the administration is in an emergency.

9.2 Privacy also allows the pupil the opportunity to discuss any confidential matters with the staff involved.

## **10. Parental Responsibility**

10.1 Parents/carers are responsible for supplying information about the medicines their child needs to take at school (Forms 1 & 5). They are responsible for informing the Foundation in writing of any changes to the prescription. Verbal messages will be accepted as a change to the prescription as long as this is documented. The parent/carer or the pupil's healthcare professional should provide written details to include

- The name of the medication;
- The dose;
- The method of administration;
- The time and frequency of administration;
- The length of treatment / stop date if appropriate;
- Other treatments required; and
- Any possible side effects.

10.2. Parents/carers are also responsible for ensuring that drugs stored for occasional use are not out-of-date. All dates of drugs stored in school will be checked every term and students' parents notified

of drugs due to become out-of-date. It is recommended that parents note when sending drugs to school when a replacement prescription will be required.

## **11. Record-Keeping**

11.1 Written records are kept of all medicines administered to children, including what, how much, when, by whom and any side-effects. Records offer protection to staff and students and provide evidence that agreed procedures have been followed (see Form 6).

## **12. School Trips**

12.1 Students with special medical needs should be encouraged to participate in school trips. Staff may need to take additional safety measures for outside visits. Consideration should be given to transporting medications safely. Students, with the exception of the Sixth Form and Senior School students who self-medicate and carry their own medication within the school environment, should not be asked to carry medications; staff should take sole responsibility. Students should carry only their own medication. Ideally written permission should be given by the parents to administer paracetamol/Calpol, ibuprofen/Nurofen and piriton/cetirizine (using Form 5). Details of pupils' medical needs and medication are detailed on the risk assessment for each trip.

12.2 Students who may require emergency administration of medication should be easily identifiable to the staff in charge of the expedition. The medication for that pupil should be signed out and returned immediately on return to school. Senior School and Sixth Form students may carry their own medication, providing the staff have checked it and are in agreement that the student can do so safely. Staff should complete Form 3 to record this decision. A protocol for the administration of the medicine should be kept with the medicine and referred to accordingly.

12.3 Any drug administered should be done so in accordance with paragraphs 7.1 to 7.3 above.

12.4 If staff are concerned about whether they can provide for a pupil's safety, or the safety of other students and staff on the trip, they can discuss their concerns with the School Healthcare Practitioner in the first instance.

## **13. Sporting Activities**

13.1 Most students with medical conditions can participate in the Physical Education curriculum or extra-curricular sport. For many, physical exercise can benefit their overall social, mental and physical health and wellbeing.

13.2 Some students may need to take precautionary measures before and during exercise, such as those asthmatic students who may need to self-administer their inhalers. Staff supervising sporting activities should be aware of students' medical conditions and must allow access to their medication. They should supervise the self-medication and be aware of emergency procedures.

13.3 Caution must be exercised when taking students off site, such as to any offsite games fields. Students should be encouraged to take ownership of their own medication and staff should ensure the medication is available when required. Emergency medication such as epipen/jext is signed out by supervising staff and taken to any external sports facility. The Latham Road pavilion First Aid Kit contains an emergency inhaler and emergency AAI. Senior School and Sixth Form students carry their own inhalers and AAIs.

13.4 Any medication administered should be done so in accordance with paragraphs 7.1 to 7.3 above.

#### **14. School Transport**

14.1 The Foundation needs to ensure the safety of all students travelling on school transport, including students travelling to and from school on the minibus from Cambridge Park and Ride sites, and on school trips. The staff should be familiar with the Foundation's policies and protocols and emergency procedures.

14.2 Students rarely require medication on the journey to and from school. Therefore transportation of medicines is not a concern, with the exception of those students who have ownership of their own medication.

14.3 The School Healthcare Practitioner should be made aware of any medication administered during the journey or in school in the case of all other sites than the Senior School.

#### **15. Disposal of Medicines**

15.1 Staff should not dispose of medicines. The School Healthcare Practitioner will take the expired medication to the local pharmacy and ask the pharmacist to destroy it safely.

15.2 No medicine should be disposed of in the sewerage system or the refuse. Current waste disposal regulations make this illegal. Sharps boxes should always be used for the disposal of needles. Parents/carers can obtain these on prescription from their GP.

#### **16. Emergency Procedures**

16.1 All staff should be aware of the First Aid and Emergency Procedures and who has responsibility for performing emergency procedures as required.

16.2 A pupil taken to hospital should be accompanied by a member of staff, who should stay with the pupil until his/her parents/carers arrive.

16.3 Generally staff should not take students to hospital in their own cars; however, there may be occasions when this is the best course of action. The member of staff should be accompanied by another adult. The Foundation holds public liability insurance cover.

#### **17. Nut Free Environment**

The Foundation aims to eliminate nuts from our premises, for the sake of our students with nut allergies. We believe education is essential. There is a strong case for arguing that food-allergic children will gain a better awareness of their allergies, and learn avoidance strategies, if they move in an environment where allergens may turn up unexpectedly (Anaphylaxis Campaign 2010).

#### **18. Staff taking medication/other substances**

Staff must not be under the influence of alcohol or any other substance which may affect their ability to care for students. If members of staff are taking medication which may affect their ability to care for students, they should seek medical advice. The Foundation must ensure that those members of staff only work directly with students if medical advice confirms that the medication is unlikely to impair that staff member's ability to look after students properly. Staff medication on the premises must be securely stored, and out of reach of students, at all times.

**Please also refer to:**

First Aid Policy

First Aid and Emergency Procedures

Ill Health Procedures

Supporting Students with Medical Conditions Policy

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