



Thorndown Pre-School

Administration of Medicines Policy

Our aspiration is that Thorndown Primary will be an outstanding school.

We value and respect everyone in our community and work as a team to:

- Provide learning experiences which support and inspire high achievement for all;
- Ensure a caring, safe and welcoming environment;
- Promote co-operative and responsible attitudes to make a positive contribution;
- Actively encourage independence and confidence to thrive in a changing world.

Approved at Learning & Development committee meeting on 16th November 2023

Review Period: Every 2 years

Date for next review: Autumn 2025

Administration of Medicines Policy

Introduction

Children with medical needs have the same rights of admission to our school as other children. Most children will at some time have short-term medical needs, while other children may have longer term medical needs and may require medicines on a long-term basis to keep them well. Other children may require medicines in particular circumstances, such as children with severe allergies.

Aims of this policy

- to explain our procedures for managing prescription medicines which may need to be taken during the school day
- to explain our procedures for managing prescription medicines on school trips
- to outline the roles and responsibilities for the administration of prescription medicines

Legal requirements

There is no legal duty that requires any member of school staff to administer medicines.

Prescribed Medicine

Prescribed medicine will only be given by Thorndown Primary School Staff for pupils with long term medical conditions that require medication during the school hours to manage their condition/s and keep them well. Staff should not provide medication without training and this is not possible for short term episodes of illness. Prescribed medicine for pupils with long term medical conditions will still only be administered at school when it is detrimental to a child's health or school attendance not to do so. Every attempt where clinically possible should be made for the medications to be provide by parents / carers at home. All medications must be prescribed by a doctor, dentist, nurse prescriber or pharmacist prescriber. Medicines will only be accepted in the original container as dispensed by a pharmacist and include the prescribers instructions for administration. The prescriber's instructions would need to state times within the pupils working day at school.

It is important that the school has sufficient information about the medical condition of any child with long term medical needs. A health care plan will be written for children with long term medical needs, involving the parents and relevant health professionals.

Prescribed medicines will only be given if the prescriber has indicated clearly on the medicine that it must be administered more than three times a day.

Prescribed medicine will **not** be given:

1. Where the timing of the dose is vital and where mistakes could lead to serious consequences.(Please refer to Children with Long Term Medical Needs section)
2. Where medical or technical expertise is required.
3. Where intimate contact would be necessary.

Children with Asthma

Children who have inhalers should have them available where necessary. Inhalers should be kept in a safe but accessible place. This could either be in the drawer of the teacher's desk or in a child's own tray. Please refer to the asthma protocol on the schools' website. Depending on the needs of the individual, inhalers should be taken to all physical activities. Inhalers must be labelled and include guidelines on administration.

It is the responsibility of parents to regularly check the condition of inhalers and ensure that they are working and have not been completely discharged.

Non –Prescription Medicines

We are unable to administer medicines that have not been prescribed by a doctor, dentist, nurse prescriber or pharmacist prescriber. We are unable to give children aspirin or medicines containing ibuprofen unless prescribed by a doctor.

Storage of Medicines

All medicines should be delivered to the school office by the parent, carer or Kids Club representative. In no circumstances should medicines be left in a child's possession. Teachers and teaching assistants should not take receipt of any medicines. All medicines should be stored in accordance with product instructions (paying particular attention to temperature). Medicines will normally be kept in the Sick Bay's fridge (if refrigeration required) or in the child's classrooms. Those children requiring an adrenalin pen will have one stored in their classroom and a second emergency pen stored in the Sick Bay (in accordance with guidance from the NHS Medical in Needs in Schools Team). All medicines must be stored in the supplied container and be clearly labelled with the name of the child; the name and dose of the medicine and the frequency of administration.

All emergency medicines, such as asthma inhalers and adrenaline pens, should be readily available to children and staff and kept in an agreed place in the classroom or First Aid cupboard. Children may carry their own inhalers, where appropriate, on receipt of signed permission from the parent/carers (see Appendix 3).

Disposal of Medicines

Parents are responsible for ensuring that date-expired medicines are returned to the pharmacy for safe disposal. They should collect medicines before expiry and replace with a new prescription where applicable. A letter, text or e-mail will be sent home to parents when staff note a medicine is about to expire, wherever possible.

If any expired medicines remain uncollected at the end of the summer term, they will be disposed of at a local pharmacist by a member of the office staff.

Trips and Outings

Children with medical needs are given the same opportunities as other children. Staff may need to consider what reasonable adjustments they might make to enable children with medical needs to participate fully and safely on visits. This may include carrying out a risk assessment for such children. The school visit co-ordinator will be responsible for tabulating medical information for each child and one member of staff will be nominated as having responsibility for the administration of all medication. Roles and responsibilities of parents/carers as outlined below will apply.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Parent/Carer*

- Should give sufficient information about their child's medical needs if treatment or special care is required. (see appendix 1)
- Must deliver all medicines to the school office in person.
- Must complete and sign the parental agreement form. (see appendix 2)
- Must keep staff informed of changes to prescribed medicines.
- Keep medicines in date – particularly emergency medication, such as adrenaline pens.

Headteacher

- To ensure that the school's policy on the administration of medicines is implemented.
- There are members of staff within the school willing to volunteer to administer medication to specific pupils if required.
- Ensure that staff receive support and appropriate training where necessary.
- To share information, as appropriate, about a child's medical needs.
- Ensure that parents are aware of the school's policy on the administration of medicines.
- Ensure that medicines are stored correctly.

Staff

- On receipt of medicines, the child's name; prescribed dose; expiry date and written instructions provided by the prescriber should be checked.
- Ensure that the parent/carer completes a consent form for the administration of medicines following the prescriber's instruction.
- Ensure that a second member of staff is present when medicines are administered, where possible.
- Complete the 'administration of medicines' record sheet each time medication is given.
- Ensure that medicines are returned to parents for safe disposal.

Refusal of medicines

If a child refuses to take medicines, staff should not force them to do so, but should note this in the records and inform parents immediately or as soon as is reasonably possible.

Record Keeping

Medicines should be provided in the original container as dispensed by a pharmacist and include the prescriber's instructions. Staff should check that written details include:

- name of the child
- name of the medicine
- dose
- method of administration
- time and frequency of administration
- any side effects
- expiry date

A parental agreement form (see appendix) must be completed and signed by the parent, before medicines can be administered. At the time of administering medicines, the member of staff must complete the medicines record sheet. No medication should be given unless it has been checked by a second adult.

Confidentiality

The head and staff should always treat medical information confidentially.

The head should agree with the child/parent who else should have access to records and other information about a child.

Staff Training

Training opportunities are identified for staff with responsibilities for administering medicines.

Related Policies

For more information see the health and safety policy, asthma protocol and the school's first aid procedures.

Monitoring

This policy should be reviewed annually in accordance with national guidance.

*Parents, as defined in section 576 of the Education Act 1996, include any person who is not a parent of a child but has parental responsibility for or care of a child. In this context, the phrase 'care of the child' includes any person who is involved in the full-time care of a child on a settled basis, such as a foster parent, but excludes baby sitters, child minders, nannies and school staff.

Appendix 1

Individual Healthcare Plan

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Name of school/setting | Thorndown Primary School |
| Child's name | |
| Group/class/form | |
| Date of birth | |
| Child's address | |
| Medical diagnosis or condition | |
| Date | |
| Review date | |

Family Contact Information

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Name | |
| Phone no. (work) | |
| (home) | |
| (mobile) | |
| Name | |
| Relationship to child | |
| Phone no. (work) | |
| (home) | |
| (mobile) | |

Clinic/Hospital Contact

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Name | |
| Phone no. | |

G.P.

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Name | |
| Phone no. | |

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| Who is responsible for providing support in school | Any relevant member of staff |
|--|------------------------------|

Describe medical needs and give details of child's symptoms, triggers, signs, treatments, facilities, equipment or devices, environmental issues etc

Name of medication, dose, method of administration, when to be taken, side effects, contra-indications, administered by/self-administered with/without supervision

Daily care requirements

Specific support for the pupil's educational, social and emotional needs

Arrangements for school visits/trips etc

Other information

Describe what constitutes an emergency, and the action to take if this occurs

Who is responsible in an emergency (*state if different for off-site activities*)

Plan developed with

Staff training needed/undertaken – who, what, when

Form copied to

Appendix 2

Parental Agreement for Setting to Administer Medicine

The school/setting will not give your child medicine unless you complete and sign this form, and the school or setting has a policy that the staff can administer medicine.

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Date for review to be initiated by | Administrative Staff |
| Name of school/setting | Thorndown Primary School |
| Name of child | |
| Date of birth | |
| Group/class/form | |
| Medical condition or illness | |

Medicine

| | |
|---|-----|
| Name/type of medicine <i>(as described on the container)</i> | |
| Expiry date | |
| Dosage and method | |
| Timing | |
| Special precautions/other instructions | |
| Are there any side effects that the school/setting needs to know about? | |
| Self-administration – y/n | |
| Procedures to take in an emergency | 999 |

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

Contact Details

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Name | |
| Daytime telephone no. | |
| Relationship to child | |
| Address | |
| I understand that I must deliver the medicine personally to | The School Office |

The above information is, to the best of my knowledge, accurate at the time of writing and I give consent to school/setting staff administering medicine in accordance with the school/setting policy. I will inform the school/setting immediately, in writing, if there is any change in dosage or frequency of the medication or if the medicine is stopped.

Signature(s) _____

Date _____

Appendix 3

Request for child to carry his/her own medicine

This form must be completed by parents/guardian

If staff have any concerns discuss this request with healthcare professionals

Name of school/setting

Thorndown Primary School

Child's name

Group/class/form

Address

Name of medicine

Procedures to be taken in an emergency

Contact Information

Name

Daytime phone no.

Relationship to child

I would like my son/daughter to keep his/her medicine on him/her for use as necessary.

Signed _____

Date _____

If more than one medicine is to be given a separate form should be completed for each one.