



NERROLS

Nerrols Primary School and Nursery

Administering Medication Policy

Lead reviewer	Headteacher
Approving board/ committee	The Local Governing Board
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Signed (Headteacher)	
Signed (Chair of Governors)	

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Statement of intent

Nerrols Primary School and Nursery will ensure that pupils with medical conditions receive appropriate care and support at school, in order for them to have full access to education and remain healthy. This includes the safe storage and administration of pupils' medication.

We are committed to ensuring that parents feel confident that we will provide effective support for their child's medical condition, and make the pupil feel safe whilst at school.

For the purposes of this policy, '**medication**' is defined as any prescribed or over the counter medicine, including devices such as asthma inhalers and adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs).

'**Prescription medication**' is defined as any drug or device prescribed by a doctor.

'**Controlled drug**' is defined as a drug around which there are strict legal controls due to the risk of dependence or addiction, such as morphine.

1. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to statutory legislation and guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Equality Act 2010
- Children and Families Act 2014
- DfE (2015) 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions'
- DfE (2024) 'Early years foundation stage (EYFS) statutory framework'
- DfE (2025) 'Automated external defibrillators (AEDs): a guide for maintained schools and academies'

2. Roles and responsibilities

The Huish Board of Directors and the Local Governing Board of Nerrols Primary School are responsible for:

- The implementation of this policy and procedures, and all corresponding procedures.
- Ensuring that this policy, as written, does not discriminate on any grounds, including the protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010.
- Ensuring that there is a sufficient number of trained staff available within the school to administer medication based upon the school's risk assessments.
- Ensuring the correct level of insurance is in place for the administration of medication.
- Ensuring that members of staff who provide support to pupils with medical conditions are suitably trained and have access to information needed.
- Ensuring that relevant health and social care professionals are consulted in order to guarantee that the needs of pupils with medical conditions are properly supported.
- Managing any complaints or concerns regarding the support provided or administration of medicine using the Trust's Complaints Policy and Procedure.

The Headteacher is responsible for:

- The day-to-day implementation and management of this policy and relevant procedures.
- Ensuring that appropriate training is undertaken by staff members administering medication.

- Ensuring that staff members understand the local emergency services' cover arrangements and that the correct information is provided for the navigation system.
- Organising another appropriately trained individual to take over the role of administering medication in the case of staff absence.
- Ensuring that all necessary risk assessments are carried out regarding the administration of medication, including for school trips and external activities.

All staff are responsible for:

- Adhering to this policy and supporting pupils to do so.
- Carrying out their duties that arise from this policy fairly and consistently.

Parents and Carers are responsible for:

- Keeping the school informed about any changes to their child's health.
- Completing our 'Parental Agreement for the School to Administer Medicine' form (Appendix A) prior to them or their child bringing any medication into school.
- Discussing medications with their child prior to requesting that a staff member administers the medication.

It is both staff members' and pupils' responsibility to understand what action to take during a medical emergency, such as raising the alarm with the most appropriate member of staff. This may include staff administering medication to the pupil involved.

3. Training staff

The headteacher will ensure that a sufficient number of staff are suitably trained in administering medication. All staff will undergo basic training on the administering of medication to ensure that, if exceptional circumstances arise where there is no designated administrator of medication available, pupils can still receive their medication from a trained member of staff. The headteacher will also ensure that a sufficient number of staff have been trained in administering medication in an emergency by a healthcare professional.

Where it is a necessary or vital component of their job role, staff will undertake training on administering medication in line with this policy as part of their new starter induction.

Staff will be advised not to agree to taking on the responsibility of administering medication until they have received appropriate training and can make an informed choice. We will also ensure that, as part of their training, staff members are informed that they cannot be required

to administer medication to pupils, and that this is entirely voluntary, unless the supporting of pupils with medical conditions is central to their role within the school, e.g. the school nurse.

Training will also cover the appropriate procedures and courses of action with regard to the following exceptional situations:

- The timing of the medication's administration is crucial to the health of the child
- Some technical or medical knowledge is required to administer the medication
- Intimate contact with the pupil is necessary

Staff members will be made aware that if they administer medication to a pupil, they take on a legal responsibility to do so correctly; therefore, staff will be encouraged not to administer medication in the above situations if they do not feel comfortable and confident in doing so, even if they have received training.

Guidance for administering AAls

We will endeavour to provide guidance and support for staff where a pupil at our school has been diagnosed as being at risk of anaphylaxis. Designated staff members with suitable confidence in their ability to use AAls will be appointed to administer this medication. As part of this guidance, all staff members will be made aware of:

- How to recognise the signs and symptoms of severe allergic reactions and anaphylaxis.
- Where to find AAls in the case of an emergency.
- How the dosage correlates with the age of the pupil.
- How to respond appropriately to a request for help from another member of staff.
- How to recognise when emergency action is necessary.
- Who the designated staff members for administering AAls are.
- How to administer an AAI safely and effectively in the event that there is a delay in response from the designated staff members.
- How to make appropriate records of allergic reactions.

4. Receiving, storing and disposing of medication

Receiving prescribed medication from parents

The parents of pupils who need medication administered at school will need to complete and sign a 'Parental Agreement for the School to Administer Medicine' form; the signed consent form will be returned to the school and appropriately filed before staff can administer medication to pupils under the age of 16. A signed copy of the parental consent form will be kept with the pupil's medication, and no medication will be administered if this consent form is not present.

We will store a reasonable quantity of medication at any one time, which will normally be a maximum of four weeks' supply. Aspirin will not be administered unless we have received written evidence that it has been prescribed by a doctor.

Parents will be advised to keep medication provided to the school in the original packaging, complete with instructions, as far as possible, particularly for liquid medications where transfer from the original bottle would result in the loss of some of the medication on the sides of the bottle. This does not apply to insulin, which can be stored in an insulin pen.

Storing pupils' medication

We will ensure that all medications are kept appropriately, according to the product instructions, and are securely stored. Medication that may be required in emergency situations, such as asthma inhalers and AAls, will be stored in a way that allows it to be readily accessible to pupils who may need it and can self-administer, and staff members who will need to administer them in emergency situations. All other medication will be stored in a place inaccessible to pupils, e.g. in our First Aid Room.

Medication stored in our school will be:

- Kept alongside the completed and signed 'Parental Agreement for the School to Administer Medicine' form.
- Kept in the original container alongside the instructions for use.
- Clearly labelled with:
 - The pupil's name
 - The name of the medication
 - The correct dosage
 - The frequency of administration
 - Any likely side effects
 - The expiry date

Medication that does not meet these criteria will not be administered.

Disposing of pupils' medication

We will not store surplus or out-of-date medication. Where medication and/or its containers need to be returned to the pupils' doctor or pharmacist, parents will be asked to collect these for this purpose. Needles and other sharps will be disposed of safely and securely, e.g. using a sharps disposal box.

5. Administering medication

Medication will only be administered at school if it would be detrimental to the pupil not to do so. Only suitably qualified members of staff will administer controlled drugs. Staff will check the expiry date and maximum dosage of the medication being administered to the pupil each time it is administered, as well as when the previous dose was taken.

Medication will be administered in a private and comfortable environment and, as far as possible, in the same room as the medication is stored; this will normally be the First Aid Room. The room will be equipped with the following provisions:

- Arrangements for increased privacy where intimate contact is necessary
- Facilities to enable staff members to wash their hands before and after administering medication, and to clean any equipment after use if necessary
- Available PPE for use where necessary

Before administering medication, the responsible member of staff should check:

- The pupil's identity
- That we possess written consent from a parent
- That the medication name, dosage and instructions for use match the details on the consent form
- That the name on the medication label is the name of the pupil who is being given the medication
- That the medication to be given is within its expiry date
- That the pupil has not already been given the medication within the accepted frequency of dosage.

If there are any concerns surrounding giving medication to a pupil, the medication will not be administered and the school will consult with the pupil's parent or a healthcare professional, documenting any action taken.

If a pupil cannot receive medication in the method supplied, e.g. a capsule cannot be swallowed, written instructions on how to administer the medication must be provided by the pupil's parent, following advice from a healthcare professional.

Where appropriate, pupils will be encouraged to take their own medication under the supervision of a staff member, provided that parental consent for this has been obtained. If a pupil refuses to take their medication, staff will not force them to do so, but will follow the

procedure agreed upon in their IHPs, and parents will be informed so that alternative options can be considered.

Our school will not be held responsible for any side effects that occur when medication is taken correctly.

Written records will be kept of all medication administered to pupils, including the date and time that medication was administered and the name of the staff member responsible.

Non-prescription medicines

We are aware that pupils may, at some point, suffer from minor illnesses and ailments of a short-term nature, and that, in these circumstances, health professionals are likely to advise parents to purchase over the counter medicines, for example, paracetamol and antihistamines. We will work on the premise that parents have the prime responsibility for their child's health and should provide schools and settings with detailed information about their child's medical condition as and when any illness or ailment arises.

To support full attendance, we will consider making arrangements to facilitate the administration of non-prescription medicines following parental request and consent.

Pupils and parents will not be expected to obtain a prescription for over-the-counter medicines as this could impact on their attendance and adversely affect the availability of appointments with local health services due to the imposition of non-urgent appointments being made.

If a pupil is deemed too unwell to be in school, they will be advised to stay at home or parents will be contacted and asked to take them home.

When making arrangements for the administration of non-prescription medicines, we will exercise the same level of care and caution, following the same processes, protocols and procedures as those in place for the administration of prescription medicines.

We will also ensure that the following requirements are met when agreeing to administer non-prescription medicines.

- Non-prescription medicines will not be administered for longer than is recommended. For example, most pain relief medicines, such as ibuprofen and paracetamol, will be recommended for three days use before medical advice should be sought. Aspirin will not be administered unless prescribed.
- Parents will be asked to bring the medicine in, on at least the first occasion, to enable the appropriate paperwork to be signed by the parent and for a check to be made of the medication details.
- Non-prescription medicines must be supplied in their original container, have instructions for administration, dosage and storage, and be in date. The name of the child can be written on the container by an adult if this helps with identification.
- Only authorised staff who are sufficiently trained will be able to administer non-prescription medicines.

Paracetamol

We are aware that paracetamol is a common painkiller that is often used by adults and children to treat headaches, stomach ache, earache, cold symptoms, and to bring down a high temperature; however, we also understand that it can be dangerous if appropriate guidelines are not followed and recommended dosages are exceeded.

We are aware that paracetamol for children is available as a syrup from the age of 2 months; and tablets (including soluble tablets) from the age of 6 years, both of which come in a range of strengths.

We understand that children need to take a lower dose than adults, depending on their age and sometimes, weight. We will ensure that authorised staff are fully trained and aware of the [NHS advice](#) on how and when to give paracetamol to children, as well as the recommended dosages and strength.

Staff will always check instructions carefully every time they administer any medicine, whether prescribed or not, including paracetamol.

We will ensure that we have sufficient members of staff who are appropriately trained to manage medicines and health needs as part of their duties.

The written consent of parents will be required in order to administer paracetamol to pupils.

6. Medical devices

Asthma inhalers

We will allow pupils who are capable of carrying their own inhalers to do so, provided that parental consent for this has been obtained. We will ensure that spare inhalers for pupils are kept safe and secure in preparation for the event that the original is misplaced, unavailable or not working.

AAIs

We will allow pupils who are capable of carrying their own AAIs to do so, provided that parental consent for this has been obtained. We will ensure that spare AAIs for pupils are kept safe and secure in preparation for the event that the original is misplaced, unavailable or not working.

Spare AAIs are not located more than five minutes away from where they may be required. The emergency AAIs can be found at the following locations:

- The Red First Aid Bag in the classroom cupboard
- The First Aid Room

We will ensure that risk assessments regarding the use and storage of AAIs on the premises are conducted and up-to-date.

Medical authorisation and parental consent will be obtained from all pupils believed to be at risk of anaphylaxis for the use of spare AAls in emergency situations. The spare AAls will not be used on pupils who are not at risk of anaphylaxis or where there is no parental consent. Where consent and authorisation has been obtained, this will be recorded in the pupil's IHP.

Pupils' and spare AAls will be obtained, stored and administered in line with our Allergen and Anaphylaxis Policy.

7. Individual healthcare plans (IHPs)

For pupils with chronic or long-term conditions and disabilities, an IHP will be developed in liaison with the pupil, their parents, the headteacher, the SENCO and any relevant medical professionals. When deciding what information should be recorded on an IHP, the following will be considered:

- The medical condition, as well as its triggers, signs, symptoms and treatments
- The pupil's resulting needs, such as medication, including the correct dosage and possible side effects, equipment and dietary requirements
- The specific support needed for the pupil's educational, social and emotional needs
- The level of support that is needed and whether the pupil will be able to take responsibility for their own health needs
- The type of provision and training that is required, including whether staff can be expected to fulfil the support necessary as part of their role
- Which staff members need to be aware of the pupil's condition
- Arrangements for receiving parental consent to administer medication
- Separate arrangements which may be required for out-of-school trips and external activities
- Which staff member can fulfil the role of being a designated, entrusted individual to whom confidentiality issues are raised
- What to do in an emergency, including whom to contact and contingency arrangements
- What is defined as an emergency, including the signs and symptoms that staff members should look out for

IHPs will be routinely monitored throughout the year and reviewed at least annually by the headteacher and SENDCo.

8. Educational trips and visits

In the event of educational trips and visits which involve leaving the school premises, medication and medical devices will continue to be readily available to staff and pupils. This may include pupils carrying their medication themselves, where possible and appropriate, e.g. asthma inhalers.

If the medication is of a type that should not be carried by pupils (e.g. capsules), or if pupils are very young or have complex needs that mean they cannot self-administer, the medication will be carried by a designated staff member for the duration of the trip or activity.

There will be at least one staff member who is trained to administer medication on every out-of-school trip or activity which pupils with medical conditions will attend. Staff members will ensure that they are aware of any pupil who will need medication administered during the trip or visit, and will make certain that they know the correct procedure, such as timings and dosage of the medication to be administered.

If the out-of-school trip or activity will be over an extended period of time, e.g. an overnight stay, a record will be kept of the frequency at which pupils need to take their medication, and any other information that may be relevant. This record will be kept by a designated trained staff member who is present on the trip and can manage the administering of medication.

All staff members, volunteers and other adults present on out-of-school trips or activities will be made aware what should be done in the case of a medical emergency with regard to the specific medical needs and conditions of the pupil, e.g. what to do if an epileptic pupil has a seizure.

9. Medical emergencies

Medical emergencies will be handled in line with the First Aid Policy.

For all emergency medication stored by the school, we will ensure that it is readily accessible to staff and the pupil who requires it, and is not locked away. For all emergency medication kept in the possession of a pupil – such as AAls – we will ensure that pupils are told to keep the appropriate instructions with the medication at all times. A spare copy of these instructions will be kept by the school in the First Aid Room.

10. Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the governing body and headteacher. The next scheduled review is September 2026.

Records of medication administered on our premises, or on school trips and visits, will be monitored and the information will be used to improve school procedures.

Staff members trained to administer medication will routinely recommend any improvements to the procedure. We will also seek advice from any relevant healthcare professionals as deemed necessary. Any changes made to this policy will be communicated to the relevant stakeholders, including pupils whose medication is stored at school and their parents.

Appendix A: Parental Agreement for the School to Administer Medicine Form

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

Administration of medication form

Name of child:

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Date of birth:

--

Group/class/form:

--

Medical condition or illness:

--

Medicine

Name and/or type of medicine
(as described on the container):

--

Expiry date:

--

Dosage and method:

--

Timing:

--

Special precautions and/or other instructions:

--

Any side effects that the school needs to know about:

--

Self-administration – Yes/No:

--

Procedures to take in an emergency:

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NB: Medicines must be in the original container as dispensed by the pharmacy – the only exception to this is insulin, which may be available in an insulin pen or pump rather than its original container.

Contact details

Name:

Daytime telephone number:

Relationship to child:

Address:

I will personally deliver the medicine to: The School Office

The above information is, to the best of my knowledge, accurate at the time of writing and I give consent for school staff to administer medicine in accordance with the relevant policies. 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.

Signature _____

Date _____