



St. Tola's N.S.
Administration of
Medicines Policy
2021



Introduction:

An Administration of Medication policy has been in existence in the school within the Whole School Policy. The policy was recently drafted through a collaborative school process and was ratified by the Board of Management (BOM) on January 25th 2018 and reviewed in February 2022.

Rationale:

The policy as outlined was put in place to;

- Clarify areas of responsibility
- To give clear guidance about situations where it is not appropriate to administer medicines
- To indicate the limitations to any requirements which may be notified to teachers and school staff
- To outline procedures to deal with a pupil with a nut allergy in our school
- Safeguard school staff that are willing to administer medication
- Protect against possible litigation.

Relationship to School Ethos:

The school promotes positive home-school contacts, not only in relation to the welfare of children, but in relation to all aspects of school life. This policy is in keeping with the school ethos through the provision of a safe, secure and caring school environment and the furthering of positive home-school links.

Aims of this Policy:

The aims and objectives of the policy can be summarised as follows;

- Minimise health risks to children and staff on the school premises
- Fulfil the duty of the BoM in relation to Health and Safety requirements
- Provide a framework within which medicines may be administered in cases of emergency or in instances where regularised administration has been agreed with parents/guardians

In –School Procedures:

Parents are required to complete a Health/Medication section on the enrolment form when enrolling their child/ren in the school. No teacher is obliged to administer medicine or drugs to a pupil and any teacher willing to do so works under the controlled guidelines outlined below.

- Prescribed medicines will only be administered after parents of the pupil concerned have written to the BoM requesting the Board to authorise a member of the teaching staff to do so. Under no circumstance will non-prescribed medicines be either stored or administered in the school. The Board will seek indemnity from parents in respect of any liability arising from the administration of medicines
- The school generally advocates the self-administration (e.g. inhalers) of medicine under the supervision of a responsible adult, exercising the standard of care of a prudent parent. No



medicines are stored on the school premises. A small quantity of prescription drugs will be stored in a locked area of that child's classroom and if a child requires self-administration on a daily basis and parents have requested storage facilities. Parents are responsible for the provision of medication and notification of change of dosage.

- Teachers have a professional duty to safeguard the health and safety of pupils, both when they are authorised to be on the school premises and when they are engaged in authorised school activities elsewhere
- The Board of Management requests parents to ensure that teachers be made aware in writing of any medical condition suffered by any child in their class
- This does not imply a duty upon teachers personally to undertake the administration of medicines or drugs.

Long Term Health Problems

Where there are children with long-term health problems in school, proper and clearly understood arrangements for the administration of medicines must be made with the Board of Management. This is the responsibility of the parents/guardians. It would include measures such as self-administration, administration under parental supervision or administration by school staff.

Life Threatening Condition

Where children are suffering from life threatening conditions, parents/guardians must clearly outline, in writing, what should be done in a particular emergency situation, with particular reference to what may be a risk to the child (**Appendix 1**). If emergency medication is necessary, arrangements must be made with the Board of Management. A letter of indemnity must be signed by the parents in respect of any liability that may arise regarding the administration of medication.

Guidelines for the Administration of Medicines

1. The parents of the pupil with special medical needs must inform the Board of Management in writing of the condition, giving all the necessary details of the condition. The request must also contain written instruction of the procedure to be followed in administering the medication. (**Appendix 1/2**)
2. Parents must write requesting the Board of Management to authorise the administration of the medication in school.
3. Where specific authorisation has been given by the Board of Management for the administration of medicine, the medicines must be brought/sent into the school by the parent/guardian/designated adult on a daily basis.
4. A written record of the date and time of administration must be kept by the person administering it (**Appendix 3**)
5. Changes in prescribed medication (or dosage) should be notified immediately to the school with clear written instructions of the procedure to be followed in storing and administering the new medication.



6. Parents/Guardians are responsible for ensuring that emergency medication is supplied to the school and replenished when necessary
7. Emergency medication must have exact details of how it is to be administered
8. The BoM must inform the school's insurers accordingly.
9. Parents are further required to indemnify the Board of Management and members of the staff in respect of any liability that may arise regarding the administration of prescribed medicines in school.
10. Parents are required to provide a telephone number where they may be contacted in the event of an emergency arising.
11. All correspondence related to the above are kept in the school.

Medicines

- Non-prescribed medicines will neither be stored nor administered to pupils in school
- Teachers/SNAs in the school will only administer prescribed medication when arrangements have been put in place as outlined above
- Arrangements for the storage of certain emergency medicines, which must be readily accessible at all times, must be made with the Principal
- A teacher/SNA must not administer any medication without the specific authorisation of the Board of Management
- The prescribed medicine must be self-administered if possible, under the supervision of an authorised Teacher/SNA if not the parent
- No teacher/SNA can be required to administer medicine or drugs to a pupil.
- In an emergency situation, qualified medical assistance will be secured at the earliest opportunity and the parents contacted
- It is not recommended that children keep medication in bags, coats, etc.
- Where possible, the parents should arrange for the administration of prescribed medicines outside of school hours.

The following guidelines are in place with regard to pupils with a Nut/Egg Allergy

1. Staff dealing with the pupil do not eat nuts/egg of any item with nut/egg trace
2. Advise children not to offer or exchange foods, sweets, lunches etc.
3. If going off-site, medication must be carried.

In the event the pupil comes in contact with peanuts/egg:

1. Refer to the child's medical care plan. If necessary, administer 5ml Zirtec/Sudafed or other antihistamine immediately. It is important that the pupil be kept calm to allow him to breathe calmly as he will experience discomfort and sensation of his/her throat swelling. If possible (s)he needs to drink as much water as possible. These steps should allow him/her to recover fully.
2. Only in the event of anaphylactic shock should the pen be administered. Pen is stored in the child's classroom in a safe & designated area. Before or immediately after Pen has been administered, an ambulance must be called.



Indicators of shock include

Symptoms of shock can include, wheezing, severe difficulty breathing and gastrointestinal symptoms such as abdominal pain, cramps, vomiting and diarrhoea.

School Doctor: Dr. Richard Look Tong – Delvin/Clonmellon Health Centre

Contact Number: 044 966 42 56

Emergencies:

In the event of an emergency, teachers should do no more than is necessary and appropriate to relieve extreme distress or prevent further and otherwise irreparable harm. Qualified medical treatment should be secured in emergencies at the earliest opportunity.

Where no qualified medical treatment is available, and circumstances warrant immediate medical attention, designated staff members may take a child into Accident and Emergency without delay. Parents will be contacted simultaneously.

In addition, parents must ensure that teachers are made aware in writing of any medical condition which their child is suffering from. For example children who are epileptics, diabetics etc. may have a seizure at any time and teachers must be made aware of symptoms in order to ensure that treatment may be given by appropriate persons.

Written details are required from the parents/guardians outlining the child's personal details, name of medication, prescribed dosage, whether the child is capable of self-administration and the circumstances under which the medication is to be given. Parents should also outline clearly proper procedures for children who require medication for life threatening conditions.

The school maintains an up to date register of contact details of all parents/guardians including emergency numbers. This is updated in September of each new school year.

First Aid Boxes:

A full medical kit is taken when children are engaged in out of school activities such as tours, football/hurling games and athletic activities.

A first aid box is kept in the staffroom containing antiseptic wipes, antiseptic bandages, sprays, steri-strips, cotton wool, scissors etc.

General Recommendations:

We recommend that any child who shows signs of illness should be kept at home; requests from parents to keep their children in at lunch break are not encouraged. A child too sick to play with peers should not be in school.

Roles and Responsibilities:



ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICINES POLICY

The BoM has overall responsibility for the implementation and monitoring of the school policy on Administration of Medication. The Principal (Ms. Eileen Smyth) is the day to day manager of routines contained in the policy with the assistance of all staff members. The Assistant Principal is the Safety Officer (Ms. Anne Stenson/Mr. Kieran Stenson) and the maintenance and replenishment of First Aid Boxes is a post of responsibility (Ms. Anne Stenson and school secretary Phil Temple) within the middle management structure in the school.

Success Criteria:

The effectiveness of the school policy in its present form is measured by the following criteria;

- Compliance with Health and Safety legislation
- Maintaining a safe and caring environment for children
- Positive feedback from parents/teachers
- Ensuring the primary responsibility for administering remains with parents/guardians

Implementation:

The policy has been implemented since 2018.

Ratification and Review:

This policy was ratified by the BoM in October 2021. It will be reviewed in the event of incidents or on the enrolment of child/children with significant medical conditions, but no later than October 2023.

Signed: Seamus Ó hÉanaigh Date:
Fr. Seamus Heaney (Chairperson, Board of Management)

Signed: Eileen Smyth Date:
Ms. Eileen Smyth (Principal)



Appendix 1: Request to the Board of Management

Administration of Medication to Students

Request to Board of Management of St. Tola's N.S.

1. I / We, the parents / guardians of

request the Board of Management of St. Tola's N.S. to

(a) authorise the taking of prescription medicine during the school day as it is absolutely necessary for the continued well being of my/our child

AND/OR

(b) allow a member of staff to give medication to my/our child in an emergency situation.

Childs Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

School Year: _____ Class: _____

Teacher: _____

MedicalCondition: _____

Name of

Medication: _____ - Storage

Details: _____ Is the

child responsible for taking medication him/herself? YES/NO

The following people will administer the medication:

Class Teacher if agreed. _____

SNA _____

Emergency Numbers: Mother _____ Father _____

Backup _____

2. I enclose a letter from Dr. stating:

(a) Why the medication is needed

(b) Name of medication

(c) Time the medication should be administered

(d) Dosage to be administered

3. I/we understand that the school has no facilities for the safe storage of prescription medicines



ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICINES POLICY

and that the prescribed amount must be brought in daily. Medicine that is to be used in an emergency will be stored in the school.

4. I/We understand that we must inform the school of any changes of medicine /dose in writing. Should there be any change in medication I/we will write to the Board of Management before this change takes place to notify them of same
5. I/We understand that no school personnel have any medical training and we indemnify school personnel and the Board from any liability that may arise from the administration of medicine.
6. I/We indemnify the Board of Management and school personnel in respect of any liability that may arise regarding the administration of the medicine and will sign Indemnity Form (Appendix upon receipt of same.

Signed: _____ (Parent/Guardian)

Signed: _____ (Parent/Guardian)



ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICINES POLICY

Appendix 2: Administration of Medicines In Schools - Indemnity Form

THIS INDEMNITY made the day of _____ 2022 BETWEEN (lawful father and mother of) of _____ (hereinafter called 'the parents') of the One Part AND for and on behalf of the Board of Management of St. Tola's N.S. situated at Killulagh, Delvin. in the County of Westmeath (hereinafter called 'the Board') of the Other Part.

WHEREAS:

1. The parents are respectively the lawful father and mother of, _____ a pupil of the above school.
2. The pupil suffers on an ongoing basis from the condition known as _____.
3. The pupil may, while attending the said school, require the administration of medication.
4. The parents have agreed that the said medication may be administered by the said pupil's classroom teacher and/or such other member of staff of the said school as may be designated from time to time by the Board.

NOW IT IS HEREBY AGREED by and between the parties hereto as follows:

a) In consideration of the Board entering into the within Agreement, the parents, as the lawful father and mother respectively of the said pupil HEREBY AGREE to indemnify and keep indemnified the board, its servants and agents including without prejudice to the generality the said pupil's class teacher and/or the principal of the said school from and against all claims, both present and future, arising from the administration or failure to administer the said medicines.

IN WITNESS whereof the parties hereto have hereunto set their hands and affixed their seals the day and year first herein WRITTEN.

SIGNED AND SEALED by the parents in the presence of:

SIGNED AND SEALED by the said in the presence of:



ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICINES POLICY

Appendix 3: Medication Chart Record

Medication Chart for: _____

Date	Drug	Dosage	Time	Signed - P1	Signed - P2



ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICINES POLICY

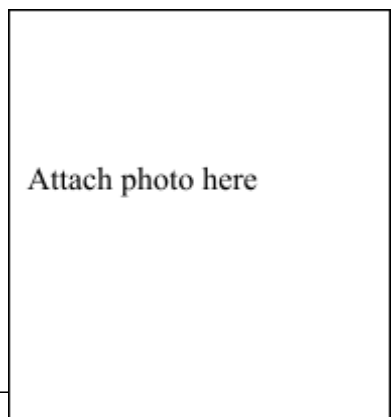
ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICINES PLAN

Childs Name: _____ D.O.B: ____/____/____

Address: _____

Teacher: _____ Class: _____

Details of medical condition (i.e. what is medicine for): _____



Name of medicine: _____

Dosage of medicine: _____

Route for administration: Oral (by mouth) Topical (rub in) Inhale
Injection Rectal

Frequency of dosage or times to be given: _____

Is the child responsible for taking the medicine for him/herself? YES / NO

Storage instructions: _____

Any side effects or potential adverse reaction or special precautions:

EMERGENCY CONTACTS:

1. Name: _____ Phone: _____

2. Name: _____ Phone: _____

I/we request that the Board of Management authorise the taking of prescription medicine during the schhol day as it is absolutely necessary for the continued well-being of my/our child. I/we understand that we must inform the school/teacher of any changes of medicine / dose in writing and that we must inform the teacher each year of the prescription/medical condition. I/we understand that no school personnel have any medical training and we indemnify the Board, Staff and Special Needs Assistants from any liability that may arise from the administration of the medication.

Signature of Parent / Guardian authorising medicine: _____ Date: _____



ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICINES POLICY

Childs Name: _____

Class: _____ **Teacher:** _____

MEDICAL CONDITION: _____

SYMPTOMS: *(give details of what happens and what to look out for)*

WHAT TO DO IN AN EMERGENCY:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

MEDICINE IS STORED: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACTS:

1. Mother: _____

2. Father: _____