



John Scottus Pre-School

Administration of Medication Policy

This policy will be available to view and examine by all members of the school community: Parents, Staff, Board of Management and Trustees. They will be available for inspection in the Pre-school classroom in Old Conna, Ferndale Rd, Rathmichael Co Dublin and on our School website.

Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 ([Siolta Standard 10: Organisation](#)) ([National Standard 2: Contract](#), [National Standard 3: Working in Partnership with Parents or Guardians](#), [National Standard 4: Records](#), [National Standard 12: Health Care](#))

Statement of Intent:

To facilitate promotion of health and wellbeing and to promote an inclusive setting this we will work in consultation with parents to ensure the safe administration of medication

Procedure:

We require the correct signed permission to administer medicines.

Only named authorised persons will administer medicines.

Medicines must only be brought into the service for administration by the staff when it is essential. This means where it would be detrimental to the child's health if it were not to be administered.

- Designated personnel only are permitted to administer medicine
- The Manager must be informed if your child is taking antibiotics or any other prescription or non-prescription medication.
- A full medical and medicine history must be provided for each child

- A record of the child's medical history will be required on the registration form
- Essential medicines will only be administered where a parent/guardian has signed a consent form and at the discretion of the person in charge.
- We will only follow the dosage as instructed by the doctor who prescribed the medication.
- If the administration of prescribed medication requires medical knowledge, individual training is provided for the relevant member of staff by a health professional.
- No child may self-administer. Where children are capable of understanding when they need medication, for example with asthma, they should be encouraged to tell their key person what they need. However, this does not replace staff vigilance in knowing and responding when a child requires medication.
- If a child refuses to take their medication staff will not force them to do so. But will seek advice from the parent.
- Parents/guardians must keep the service up to date on their child's medical needs.
- Parents/guardians must fill in the medicine consent form of the service, authorizing the administration of medicine (prescription or non-prescription) to their child. Staff cannot give medicine unless this written permission is given.
- Parents/guardians must hand staff the medicine, which then stored in the fridge or the medicine cabinet. Any form of medication must never be left in a child's bag, including inhalers.
- Medicines must be in their original packaging clearly labelled with the child's name, the current date, expiry date, storage instructions and dosage plus the name of the health care provider that recommended the medication. We will only administer medicine is licensed for the age group of the child. For example, an ant-febrile medication supplied by a parent for a 3-year-old that is licensed for an over 6-year-old **will not** be administered.
- We will always have the documentation available related to the medicine to include directions for use, possible adverse reaction

Storage of Medicines:

- All medication is stored out of reach of the children.

- The Manager/person in charge is responsible for ensuring medicine is handed back at the end of the day to the parent.
- For some conditions, medication may be kept at the service. The Manager will check that any medication held to administer on an as and when required basis, or on a regular basis, is in date and return any out-of-date medication to the parent.
- Unused medicines should be returned to the parent.

Procedures for staff administering essential medicines (Prescription and non-prescription)/record keeping:

1. Wash hands thoroughly.

2. Staff administering medicines must check:

- The child's name.
- Prescribed dose.
- Expiry date of medicine.
- Written instructions provided by the prescriber on the label or original container.
- Time last dose was given.
- That the directions and instructions are in English
- Staff must check that the medicine contains the directions as prescribed the doctor and dispensed by the pharmacy
- Check parents/guardians have completed and signed 'Administration of Medicines' Consent form and Anti Febrile Medication form if relevant.
- Staff are aware of how the medication reacts with food, fluids or other medications. e.g. some medications cannot be given with milk, or when taking another medication.
- Staff will maintain a record of the outcome of the administration of the medication. e.g. was there a reduction in temperature after administration of anti-febrile agent; has the child developed a rash following administration of medication.

Anti-Febrile Medication: Emergency Medication

Anti-febrile medication is medication used to reduce a raised body temperature. The most common anti-febrile medications used are: Paracetamol and Ibuprofen (Anti-febrile medication is important treatment for high temperatures to prevent febrile convulsions. Parents/guardians are required to complete a form authorising the administration of such medication if the child develops a temperature over 37.5 degrees C. This medication should not be used unless indicated for high temperature or pain as overdose can cause significant medical problems.

Parents/guardians will always be notified by telephone prior to the administration of an un-prescribed anti-febrile medication. If the anti-febrile medication does not reduce the temperature medical advice will be sought by contacting the child's GP, hospital or emergency services and the advice will be followed by the staff.

Medication forms will be reviewed regularly by the Manager to identify children who require frequent or repeated anti-febrile medications. A child in this category may require to be seen by their doctor. Parents/guardians may be asked to supply a medical report.

If the consent form is not signed, then the parent must be contacted immediately BEFORE any administration of Anti Febrile Medication' to the child to confirm that it is permissible. Parents/guardians upon returning to the service must then be required to sign the correct permission forms.

If a child has a temperature and permission for 'Anti Febrile Medication' has not been granted medical advice should be obtained immediately.

Staff must ask for a person in charge (Manager) or another member of staff to be present. Ask them to confirm steps 1 and 2 and that the medicine can be administered.

- Staff **MUST** have a witness **PRESENT** to the medicine being administered.
[Second person and countersigned by that person]
- Staff must record the child's name, date, time dosage and route in the medicines record and give a copy to the parent.
- Parents/guardians will be required to sign to say they were informed of the dosage of the medicine upon collection of the child.

It is extremely important that staff follow the procedures as detailed above. These measures are in place to ensure that no mistakes are made. Administering medication is a responsibility which must be undertaken with due caution. If staff are not sure how to administer it or have difficulty doing so, please inform the Manager/person in charge.

The following should always be checked:

- Correct Child
- Correct Medication
- Correct Dose
- Correct Time
- Correct Route

NOTE: Students or volunteers may not administer medicines.

Procedures for Children with Allergies Requiring Treatment with Oral Medication:

- Asthma inhalers are regarded as "oral medication" Oral medications must be prescribed by a GP and have the manufacturer instructions clearly written on them.
- Staff must be provided with clear written instructions on how to administer such medication.
- The service must have the parents/guardians' or guardians' prior written consent. This consent must be kept on file.

Emergency Medicines

Where medical conditions exist for a child we will develop individual medical care plans which will include the management in the event of an emergency relating to the condition. This will be developed in conjunction with the parents and the child's medical advisers. Where a child has a condition that may require emergency medical treatment staff will be trained on the condition and the treatment. This would include medications like Ventolin, Glucagon or EpiPen. Where medication is administered in the case of anaphylaxis or asthma emergency the service will ensure that the emergency services are contacted as soon as is practically possible and the parents and guardians are also contacted as soon as possible. Emergency

numbers for the local pharmacist and local medical practitioners are available within the service

Life Saving Medication and Invasive Treatments:

Adrenaline injections (Epipens) for anaphylactic shock reactions (caused by allergies to nuts, eggs etc.) or invasive treatments such as rectal administration of Diazepam (for epilepsy).

Management must have:

- A letter from the child's GP/consultant stating the child's condition and what medication if any is to be administered.
- Written consent from the parent or guardian allowing staff to administer medication.
- Proof of training in the administration of such medication by a doctor or appropriate health profession or persons recommended by a manufacturer.
- A copy of such proof may be required by our insurance provider for appraisal so that our insurance can be extended if necessary.
- For medicines like Epipens it will be decided on individual cases and if staff are happy and competent to administer them.
- Consent forms.

Note: Unused medicine must be returned to parents for safe disposal. Medicines must be stored out of reach of children.

Sunscreen:

- We will send letters home asking for parents/guardians to apply sun cream to their child before bringing them to school each morning.
- We will also ask parents/guardians for permission for staff to apply sun cream onto their child when appropriate.
- Parents "must" supply sun cream in the original bottle. It should be individually labelled with child's name and we store it in a press out of reach not in the child's bag.

All records kept by the service are kept secure and confidential.

Medication Errors:

All medication errors will be recorded and we will seek medical advice immediately. This includes medication is given to wrong child; wrong route; wrong dosage; wrong time; omitted to be given as scheduled. We will contact the GP, Pharmacist or other emergency service, depending on the error. Parents/guardians will be informed immediately.

Important Note:

If parents cannot be reached, the emergency contact persons (as identified on the Child Registration Form) will be contacted.