



Administration of Medicines Policy & First Aid

Reviewed: 2024

Due for Review: Updated as needed

Introduction

While the Board of Management has a duty to safeguard the health and safety of students when they are engaged in authorised school activities, this does not imply a duty upon teaching or administrative staff to personally undertake the administration of medication.

The Board of Management requests parents to ensure that staff members are made aware in writing of any medical condition suffered by their daughter. This information should be provided at enrolment or at the development of any medical conditions at a later date. Medication in this policy refers to medicines, tablets and sprays administered by mouth and automatic injection devices (eg epipen) used in cases of anaphylaxis, diabetic treatments, etc.

Staff only administer medication, including basic paracetamol, with parental permission.

The only exception is when the school has agreed to follow written doctor's instructions concerning administering or supporting the student in self-administering a particular medication, when it is deemed by the school to be reasonable and safe to do so.

Specific Medication Procedures:

1) Epi-pens

2) Other Medications

1. In the case of Epi-pens, the usual procedure is that;

The school is made aware of the student's need of an epi-pen by the parents on the medical conditions form.

The Principal meets with the parents in advance of the student commencing in school to ensure that there is a common understanding of the student's situation and risk factors.

The student self-administers the epi-pen, unless an alternative arrangement is agreed between the school and the parents.

Protocol should a student experience a seizure or becomes unresponsive:

The school will ring 999 for advice and to request an ambulance.

Concurrently parents are phoned and advised of the situation. The decision to seek expert medical support is due to the school's obligation to act in loco parentis.

2. In the case of other specified medication the procedure is:

Procedure to be followed by parents who require the administration of medication for their children:

- The parent/guardian should write to the school requesting the Board to authorise a staff member to administer the medication or to monitor self-administration of the medication for emergency use.
- Parents are required to provide written instructions of the procedure to be followed in the administration and storing of the medication.
- Parents are responsible for ensuring that the medication is delivered to the school and handed over to a responsible adult and for ensuring that an adequate supply is available for emergency use.
- Parents are further required to indemnify the school and authorised members of staff in respect of any liability that may arise regarding the administration of prescribed medicines in school. The school will inform the school's insurers accordingly.
- 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.
- Where children are suffering from life threatening conditions, parents should outline clearly in writing, what should and what should not be done in a particular emergency situation, with particular reference to what may be a risk to the child.
- Parents are required to provide a telephone number where they may be contacted in the event of an emergency arising.

Procedures to be followed by the Board of Management

- The Board, having considered the matter, may authorise a staff member to administer medication to a student or to monitor the self-administration by a student.
- The Board will ensure that the authorised person is properly instructed in how to administer the medicine.
- The Board shall seek an indemnity from parents in respect of liability that may arise regarding the administration of the medicine.
- The Board shall inform the school insurers accordingly.

- The Board shall make arrangements for the safe storage of medication and procedures for the administration of medication in the event of the authorised staff member's absence.

Responsibilities of Staff Members

- No staff member can be required to administer medication to a student.
- Any staff member who is willing to administer medicines should do so under strictly controlled guidelines in the belief that the administration is safe.
- Written instructions on the administration of the medication must be provided.
- Medication must not be administered without the specific authorisation of the Board of Management.
- In administering medication to students, staff members will exercise the standard of care of a reasonable and prudent parent.
- A written record of the date and time of administration will be kept.
- In emergency situations, staff should do no more than is obviously 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.
- Parents should be contacted should any questions or emergencies arise.

In the case of any First Aid situations arising at school or off-site:

The teachers trained in First Aid are consulted for advice and intervention where possible, or the assistance of another First Aider.

Parents are informed.

In the case of any doubt, immediate expert medical help is sought.

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICINES IN SCHOOL'S INDEMNITY

THIS INDEMNITY made the day of 20..... BETWEEN

Lawful parent(s) or guardian(s) of....., hereinafter called 'the parents'

of the One Part AND for and on behalf of the Board of Management of Rosemont School, situated on the Enniskerry Road in the County of Dublin (hereinafter called 'the Board') of the Other Part.

WHEREAS:

1. The parents are respectively the lawful father and mother or guardians of, a student of the above school.
2. The student suffers on an ongoing basis from the condition known as;
3. The student may, while attending the said school, require, in emergency circumstances, the administration of medication, (viz).
4. The parents have agreed that the said medication may, in emergency circumstances, be administered by the said student'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 student HEREBY AGREE to indemnify and keep indemnified the board, its servants and agents including without prejudice to the generality the said student'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 by the parents in the presence of:

SIGNED AND STAMPED by the said school authority in the presence of:

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