

SCHOOL HEALTH POLICY

Updated June 2022

The aim of the School Health Service is to enable pupils to fulfil their educational potential by means of supporting their health care needs in the school environment.

This is primarily the responsibility of the School Nurse and School Counsellor, in collaboration with the Deputy Head Pastoral, the Head teacher, the Board of Governors and parents. The school Doctor is available in a supportive role.

The key activities of the School Health Service are:

SCREENING AND DISEASE DETECTION

It is necessary to know about any medical condition that may impair academic progress if left untreated or which may require treatment during school hours.

All parents of new entrants are required to complete a health questionnaire which will give information such as existing medical conditions, previous infectious diseases, current immunisation status and details of any medication that may be required in school. This information is confidential unless it is necessary to inform teaching staff of a chronic condition a pupil has that may require treatment during the school day.

Parents are asked to inform the School Nurse if their child's medical status changes or if their child develops a condition that requires short-term medication. A school health check is carried out by the School Nurse for new students to the school or if indicated. The School Nurse is available for discussions with parents regarding pupils' medical needs.

SUPPORTING PUPILS WITH MEDICAL NEEDS

Children who have significant medical needs and/or who may require medication during the school day will have an Individual Health Care Plan. These are written agreements between parents and school staff. Information will be collated from parents, G.P. or hospital and the plan will be implemented by the School Nurse.

Children with such conditions as severe asthma, anaphylaxis or diabetes will be considered for a Health Care Plan. The Health Care Plan will include such information as a description of the illness, daily care requirements, what should be done in an emergency and contact telephone numbers of parents and the pupil's G.P.

Teaching and other school staff are provided with information regarding the implications of the child's illness in terms of how it may affect the child and what action is reasonably expected of school staff.

The School Nurse / trained First Aider can administer medicines in school providing:

- a) Written parental consent is obtained.
- b) Clear instructions re: dosage, time to be given, etc are obtained.
- c) All medicines given in school are supplied in the original container complete with the prescription label attached.
- d) Any drug allergy is documented.

All medicines given during school hours will be documented and parents will receive notification if their child has received medication during the school day (that is for children whose parents have given written consent).

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Teaching/First Aid trained staff may administer paracetamol/Ibuprofen/Loratadine to pupils if parental consent has been obtained - both written and verbal. But this is a voluntary role, and they are under no obligation to do so.

Homely remedies may also be administered by allocated staff in accordance with the appropriate policy and if parental consent has been obtained.

SPECIFIC HEALTH POLICIES

Health policies are in place for specific medical conditions such as asthma, diabetes, and severe allergic reactions. Copies of these policies are kept in the medical room and in the staff room.

If there is a possibility that a pupil will require emergency medical treatment e.g., EpiPen for anaphylactic shock the School Nurse will be responsible for training other members of staff in emergency procedures.

STAFF MEDICATION

If members of staff must bring their own medication to school with them, they are responsible for storing it safely and securely. If the medication requires refrigeration, it must be put into a suitable, labelled container and placed in the staff refrigerator or Medical room refrigerator if preferred.

IMMUNISATION AND PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Flu vaccinations are offered to all children from Juniors.

Immunisation is carried out at school for the Year 8 girls (Human Papillomavirus Vaccination HPV) with a booster later in year 8/9. School leavers and Meningitis ACWY vaccinations are carried out in Year 9 according to local health authority recommendations. Parental consent is always obtained and suitability for immunisation is established prior to vaccination.

Covid booster vaccinations may well take place in school but at the time of writing there has been no confirmation.

Certain infectious diseases are notifiable to the local health authority; this is the responsibility of the School Doctor or School Nurse. The School Nurse will also inform parents of exclusion periods for the commoner contagious diseases e.g., chicken pox.

PARENTS

Parents are asked annually to provide updated information on any medical issues their child might have, so that relevant staff are aware of any medical concerns and are able to provide appropriate care at school.

HEALTH PROMOTION

Health promotion in school will include an on-going programme of informative sessions including effects of smoking, alcohol, eating disorders, obesity, sexual health for example. Other subjects that will be discussed include (not exhaustive): healthy eating, the importance of exercise and basic first aid.

Health leaflets with a variety of informative are available outside the nurse's room to help give pupils increasing responsibility for their own healthy living.

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CHILD ADVOCACY AND COUNSELLING

The School will always endeavour to support any pupil with psychological, mental health and/or social issues. A variety of systems are in place to provide this support.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE

The following documents are attached to this policy:

- a) List of first aid trained staff.
- b) Location of first aid boxes.
- c) GDST First Aid Policy
- d) First Aid Kits – Equipment.
 - GDST Hub –Health & Safety – First Aid
 - GDST Hub – Health & Safety – Accident Recording and Reporting
 - GDST Hub – Health & Safety – ‘Pupil Health’
 - GDST ‘Medical Manual’
 - GDST ‘Administration of Medicines Protocol’ accessible from the Pupil Health section of H&S GDST Hub
 - SharePoint – Medical and H&S site
 - Guidance on First Aid for Schools – A Good Practice Guide DfEE 1998
 - Approved Code of Practice and Guidance to the H&S (First Aid) Regulations 1981 – L74-HSE (revised 2009)
 - The Defibrillator Policy is available in the Medical area on Shared Drive in the First Aid Folder
 - GDST ‘Medical Manual Appendix G ‘Advised Minimum Exclusion Periods for common Infections and Illnesses (accessible from H&S GDST Hub Pupil Health section) and refer to school specific procedures for responding to pupils who are ill and infectious to prevent the spread of infection.