

Medication Policy

1. Rationale

Many students attending school need medication to control illnesses such as asthma and epilepsy, and conditions causing hyperactive behaviour. The student's continued attendance at school and benefit from education are dependent on this therapy. It is necessary that teachers, as part of their duty of care, assist students, where it is appropriate, to take their medication.

As soon as a student enrolls at the school with a medical condition the following will immediately be put in place:

1. A Student Health Support Plan for the student will be completed by the student's parents/carers, in consultation with their medical practitioner and the school nurse.
2. Where necessary, a communication strategy to raise staff awareness about student's needs will be undertaken.
3. Where the child is required to take medication during school hours, the parents/carers will complete a School Medication Permission Form.

Pakenham Springs Primary School will work in partnership with parents/carers and the student to support students to feel safe at school.

2. Purpose of Policy

To explain to parents/carers, students and staff the processes Pakenham Springs Primary School will follow to safely manage the provision of medication to students while at school or school activities, including camps and excursions.

This policy applies to the administration of medication to all students. It does not apply to:

- the provision of medication for anaphylaxis which is provided for in our school's Anaphylaxis Policy
- the provision of medication for asthma which is provided for in our school's Asthma Policy
- specialised procedures which may be required for complex medical care needs.

If a student requires medication, Pakenham Springs School encourages parents to arrange for the medication to be taken outside of school hours. However, Pakenham Springs Primary School understands that students may need to take medication at school or school activities. To support students to do so safely, Pakenham Springs Primary School will follow the procedures set out in this policy.

Authority to administer

If a student needs to take medication while at school or at a school activity:

- Parents/carers will need to arrange for the student's treating medical/health practitioner to provide written advice to the school which details:
 - the name of the medication required
 - the dosage amount
 - the time the medication is to be taken
 - how the medication is to be taken
 - the dates the medication is required, or whether it is an ongoing medication

- how the medication should be stored.
- In most cases, parents/carers should arrange for written advice to be provided in a Medication Authority Form which a student's treating medical/health practitioner should complete.
- If advice cannot be provided by a student's medical/health practitioner, the principal (or their nominee) may agree that written authority can be provided by, or the Medication Authority Form can be completed by a student's parents/carers.
- The principal may need to consult with parents/carers to clarify written advice and consider student's individual preferences regarding medication administration (which may also be provided for in a student's Student Health Support Plan).

Parents/carers can contact the school office for a Medication Authority Form.

Administering medication

Any medication brought to school by a student needs to be clearly labelled with:

- the student's name
- the dosage required
- the time the medication needs to be administered.

Parents/carers need to ensure that the medication a student has at school is within its expiry date. If school staff become aware that the medication a student has at school has expired, they will promptly contact the student's parents/carers who will need to arrange for medication within the expiry date to be provided.

If a student needs to take medication at school or a school activity, the principal (or their nominee) will ensure that:

1. Medication is administered to the student in accordance with the Medication Authority Form so that:
 - the student receives their correct medication
 - in the proper dose
 - via the correct method (for example, inhaled or orally)
 - at the correct time of day.
2. A log is kept of medicine administered to a student.
3. Where possible, two staff members will supervise the administration of medication.
4. The teacher in charge of a student at the time their medication is required:
 - is informed that the student needs to receive their medication
 - if necessary, release the student from class to obtain their medication.

Self-administration

In some cases it may be appropriate for students to self-administer their medication. The principal may consult with parents/carers and consider advice from the student's medical/health practitioner to determine whether to allow a student to self-administer their medication.

If the principal decides to allow a student to self-administer their medication, the principal may require written acknowledgement from the student's medical/health practitioner, or the student's parents/carers that the student will self-administer their medication.

Storing medication

The principal (or their nominee) will put in place arrangements so that medication is stored:

3. Communication

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Included in staff induction processes
- Available publicly on our school's website
- Discussed at staff briefings/meetings as required
- Made available in hard copy from school office upon request

Further Information and Resources

The Department's Policy and Advisory Library (PAL):

- [Medication Policy](#)
- [First Aid for Students and Staff Policy](#)

4. Evaluation

Policy last reviewed	18 th May, 2023
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	18 th May, 2026