

PURPOSE

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

Many students attending school need medication to control a health condition. It is necessary that teachers (as part of their duty of care) assist students, where appropriate to take their medication. The school will ensure the student's privacy and confidentiality and will exercise sensitivity towards this issue to avoid any stigmatisation.

SCOPE

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.

GUIDELINES

Western Autistic School will have administration of medication procedure which outlines the school's processes and protocols regarding the management of prescribed and non-prescribed medication to students at this school.

The student's parent/carer may wish to supply medication to be administered at the school. To minimise the quantity of medication held at the school, it should be considered if the medication can be taken outside of the school day, for example medication required three times a day may be able to be taken before and after school, and before bed.

Students will generally need supervision of their medication and other aspects of health care management. The school in consultation with parents/carers and the student's medical/health practitioner may consider the age and circumstances by which the student could be permitted to self-administer their medication, however this may only occur in very rare circumstances.

POLICY

If a student requires medication, Western Autistic School encourages parents to arrange for the medication to be taken outside of school hours. However, Western Autistic School understands that students may need to take medication at school or school activities. To support students to do so safely, Western Autistic 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/s
 - 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 and update annually.

- 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. This authority form needs to be updated annually.
- 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 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.

No medication is permitted to come into school or go home on the school buses. 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:

- 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.
- All medications administered at school, both daily and when required, are logged on Sentral.
- Where possible, two staff members will supervise the administration of medication.
- The teacher in charge of a student at the time their medication is required to be:
 - 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:

- securely to minimise risk to others
- in a place only accessible by staff who are responsible for administering the medication
- away from a classroom (unless quick access is required)
- away from first aid kits

- according to packet instructions, particularly in relation to temperature.
- For most students, Western Autistic School will store student medication at the front office.
- The principal may decide, in consultation with parents/carers and/or on the advice of a student’s treating medical/health practitioner:
 - that the student’s medication should be stored securely in the student’s classroom if quick access might be required
 - to allow the student to carry their own medication with them, preferably in the original packaging if:
 - the medication does not have special storage requirements, such as refrigeration
 - doing so does not create potentially unsafe access to the medication by other students.

Warning

Western Autistic School will not:

- in accordance with Department of Education and Training policy, store or administer analgesics such as aspirin and paracetamol as a standard first aid strategy as they can mask signs and symptoms of serious illness or injury
- allow a student to take their first dose of a new medication at school in case of an allergic reaction. This should be done under the supervision of the student’s parents, carers, or health practitioner
- allow use of medication by anyone other than the prescribed student except in a life-threatening emergency, for example if a student is having an asthma attack and their own puffer is not readily available.

Medication error

If a student takes medication incorrectly, staff will endeavour to:

Step	Action
1.	If required, follow first aid procedures outlined in the student’s Health Support Plan or other medical management plan.
2.	Ring the Poisons Information Line, 13 11 26 and give details of the incident and the student.
3.	Act immediately upon their advice, such as calling Triple Zero “000” if advised to do so.
4.	Contact the student’s parents/carers or emergency contact person to notify them of the medication error and action taken.
5.	Review medication management procedures at the school in light of the incident.

In the case of an emergency, school staff may call Triple Zero “000” for an ambulance at any time.

PROGRAM

All medications, including prescription as well as non-prescription medication, including analgesics, such as paracetamol and Nurofen for kids and other medications which can be purchased over the counter without a prescription, are to be administered by school nurse, first aid officers or first aiders, following the processes and protocols set out in the Medication Management Procedures (**see Appendix A**) of the school.

When administering prescription medication on behalf of parent/carers, the written advice received must be supported by specific written instructions on the original medication bottle or container, such as that on the pharmacists’ label noting the name of the student, dosage, and time to be administered. Analgesics can mask signs and symptoms of serious illness or injury and will not, therefore, be administered by the school, as a standard first aid strategy. Therefore, analgesics such as Nurofen for kids and paracetamol will not be stored in the school’s first aid kits and only be administered in certain circumstances, by school nurse, first aid officer or first aider, in consultation with the student’s parents.

The principal (or nominee) administering medication needs to ensure that:

- the right child;
- has the right medication;
- and the right dose;
- by the right route (for example, oral or inhaled);
- at the right time; and

The principal or their nominee will inform teachers of those students in their charge who require medication to be administered at the school. The teachers may be required to release students at prescribed times so they may receive their medications from the principal or nominee.

All medications administered at school, both daily and when required, are logged on Sentral.

The school in consultation with parents/carers and the student's medical/health practitioner will consider the age and circumstances by which the student could be permitted to self-administer their medication. Ideally, medication to be self-administered by the student should be stored by the school. However, where immediate access is required by the student, such as in the case of asthma, anaphylaxis, or diabetes, medication must be stored in an easily accessible location.

Note: It is at the principal's discretion to agree for the student to carry and manage his/her own medication.

Communication -

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

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included as annual reference in school newsletter
- Discussed at staff briefings/meetings as required
- Discussed at prep orientation sessions
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

LINKS AND APPENDICES (including processes related to this policy)

Links which are connected with this policy are:

- http://www.education.vic.gov.au/management/governance/referenceguide/enviro/4_5.htm
- <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/healthwellbeing/health/anaphylaxischools.htm>
- <http://www.asthma.org.au/Default.aspx?tabid=102>

Related Policies/Forms/Log:

- [First Aid](#)
- [Health Care Needs \(previously called Student Health\)](#)
- [Medication Authority Form](#)
- [Medication Administration Log](#)

Appendices which are connected with this policy are:

- Appendix A: Medication Management Procedures
- Appendix B: Medication Authority Form

REVIEW CYCLE AND EVALUATION

Evaluation	Recommended review cycle 3-4 years
Endorsed By	Adele Field, Principal
Endorsed On	9 th October 2023
Next review date	October 2026

APPENDIX A**Medication Management Procedures**

The school has developed procedures for the appropriate storage and administration of prescribed and non-prescribed medicines to students by school staff with reference to individual student medical information.

Student Information

Parents and/or guardians are required to keep the school informed of current medical contact details concerning students and any current medical conditions and appropriate medical history.

Every student who has a medical condition or illness has an individual management plan that is attached to the student's records. This management plan is provided by the student's parents/guardians and contains details of:

- the usual medical treatment needed by the student at school or on school activities
- the medical treatment and action needed if the student's condition deteriorates
- the name, address and telephone numbers for an emergency contact and the student's doctor

Administration of prescribed Oral Medication

Parents/guardians are required to inform the principal in writing of any prescribed medication that students need to take in school hours. Where medication is required in spontaneous situations, detailed administration instructions should be provided, for example in the case of asthma attacks. Medication Administration Permission Forms are available from the Administration Office and should be completed and signed by the parent/guardian.

Certain students are capable of taking their own medication (usually tablets) while other students will need assistance from teachers. This information will be recorded on the individual student's management plan.

All medication sent to school is to be administered by school staff and, parents/guardians are required to supply medication in the original packaging that gives the name of the medication, name of the student, the dose, and the time it is to be given. **Note:** No medication is permitted to come into school or go home on the school buses.

Where medication for more than one day is supplied, it is to be locked in the storage cupboard in the school administration office.

Administration of Analgesics

Analgesics are only to be given following permission of parents/guardians and are to be issued by a school nurse First Aid Officer or first aider who maintains a record to monitor student intake. Analgesics are to be supplied by the parents.

**Appendix B
Western Autistic School - Medication Authority Form**

Medication Authority Form

For a student who requires medication whilst at school

This form should, ideally, be signed by the student’s medical/health practitioner for all medication to be administered at school but schools may proceed on the signed authority of parents in the absence of a signature from a medical practitioner.

- For students with asthma, [Asthma Australia’s School Asthma Care Plan](#)
- For students with anaphylaxis, an [ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis](#)

Please only complete the sections below that are relevant to the student’s health support needs. If additional advice is required, please attach it to this form.

Please note: wherever possible, medication should be scheduled outside school hours, eg medication required three times daily is generally not required during a school day – it can be taken before and after school and before bed.

Student Details

Name of school: _____

Name of student: _____ Date of Birth: _____

MediAlert Number (if relevant): _____

Review date for this form: _____

Medication to be administered at school:					
Name of Medication	Dosage (amount)	Time/s to be taken	How is it to be taken? (eg oral/topical/injection)	Dates to be administered	Supervision required
				Start: / / End: / / OR <input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing medication	<input type="checkbox"/> No – student self-managing <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> remind <input type="checkbox"/> observe <input type="checkbox"/> assist <input type="checkbox"/> administer
				Start: / / End: / / OR <input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing medication	<input type="checkbox"/> No – student self-managing <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> remind <input type="checkbox"/> observe <input type="checkbox"/> assist <input type="checkbox"/> administer

Medication delivered to the school

Please indicate if there are any specific storage instructions for any medication: _____

Medication delivered to the school

Please ensure that medication delivered to the school:

- Is in its original package
- The pharmacy label matches the information included in this form
- Is delivered to reception and does not travel on the bus or is left in the students bag

Supervision required

Students in the early years will generally need supervision of their medication and other aspects of health care management. In line with their age and stage of development and capabilities, older students can take responsibility for their own health care. Self-management should be agreed to by the student and their parents/carers, the school and the student's medical/health practitioner.

Please describe what supervision or assistance is required by the student when taking medication at school (e.g. remind, observe, assist or administer):

Monitoring effects of medication

Please note: School staff **do not** monitor the effects of medication and will seek emergency medical assistance if concerned about a student's behaviour following medication.

Privacy Statement

We collect personal and health information to plan for and support the health care needs of our students. Information collected will be used and disclosed in accordance with the Department of Education and Training's privacy policy which applies to all government schools (available at: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/Pages/schoolsprivacypolicy.aspx>) and the law.

Authorisation to administer medication in accordance with this form:

Name of parent/carer: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

2nd Emergency Contact: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name of medical/health practitioner: _____

Professional role: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Contact details: _____