South Grove Primary School

Administering Medication Policy

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Statement of Intent

South Grove Primary School will ensure that pupils with medical conditions receive appropriate care and support at school, in order for them to have full access to education and remain healthy. This includes the safe storage and administration of pupils' medication.

The school is committed to ensuring that parents/carers feel confident that we will provide effective support for their child's medical condition, and make the pupil feel safe whilst at school.

For the purposes of this policy:

"Medication" is defined as any prescribed or over the counter medicine, including devices such as asthma inhalers and adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs).

"Prescription medication" is defined as any drug or device prescribed by a doctor.

"Controlled drug" is defined as a drug around which there are strict legal controls due to the risk of dependence or addiction, e.g. morphine.

1. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Equality Act 2010
- Children and Families Act 2014
- DfE 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions'
- DfE 'Early years foundation stage (EYFS) statutory framework'
- DfE 'Automated external defibrillators (AEDs): a guide for maintained schools and academies'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Infection Control Policy
- Early Years Policy
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Records Management Policy
- Allergen and Anaphylaxis Policy
- Complaints Procedures Policy

2. Roles and responsibilities

The Governing Body is responsible for:

- The implementation of this policy and procedures, and all corresponding procedures.
- Ensuring that this policy, as written, does not discriminate on any grounds, including the protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010.
- Ensuring that there is a sufficient number of trained staff available within the school to administer medication based upon the school's risk assessments.
- Ensuring the correct level of insurance is in place for the administration of medication.

- Ensuring that members of staff who administer medication to pupils, or help pupils self-administer, are suitably trained and have access to information needed.
- Ensuring that relevant health and social care professionals are consulted in order to guarantee that pupils taking medication are properly supported.
- Managing any complaints or concerns regarding this policy, the support provided to pupils, or the administration of medication in line with the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

The Headteacher is responsible for:

- The day-to-day implementation and management of this policy and relevant procedures.
- Ensuring that appropriate training is undertaken by staff members administering medication.
- Ensuring that staff members understand the local emergency services' cover arrangements and that the correct information is provided for the navigation system.
- Organising another appropriately trained individual to take over the role of administering medication in case of staff absence.
- Ensuring that all necessary risk assessments are carried out regarding the administration of medication, including for school trips and external activities.

All staff are responsible for:

- Adhering to this policy and supporting pupils to do so.
- Carrying out their duties that arise from this policy fairly and consistently.

Parents/Carers are responsible for:

- Keeping the school informed about any changes to their child's health.
- Completing an administering medication parental consent form prior to them or their child bringing any medication into school.
- Discussing medication with their child prior to requesting that a staff member administers the medication.

It is both staff members' and pupils' responsibility to understand what action to take during a medical emergency, such as raising the alarm with the class teacher or other members of staff. This may include staff administering medication to the pupil involved.

3. Training staff

The Headteacher will ensure that a sufficient number of staff are suitably trained in administering medication. All staff will undergo basic training on the administering of medication to ensure that, if exceptional circumstances arise where there is no designated administrator of medication

available, pupils can still receive their medication from a trained member of staff. The Headteacher will also ensure that a sufficient number of staff have been trained in administering medication in an emergency by a healthcare professional.

Where it is a necessary or vital component of their job role, staff will undertake training on administering medication in line with this policy as part of their new starter induction.

Staff will be advised not to agree to taking on the responsibility of administering medication until they have received appropriate training and can make an informed choice. The school will ensure that, as part of their training, staff members are informed that they cannot be required to administer medication to pupils, and that this is entirely voluntary, unless the supporting of pupils with medical conditions is central to their role within the school.

Training will also cover the appropriate procedures and courses of action with regard to the following exceptional situations:

- The timing of the medication's administration is crucial to the health of the child
- Some technical or medical knowledge is required to administer the medication
- Intimate contact with the pupil is necessary

Staff members will be made aware that if they administer medication to a pupil, they take on a legal responsibility to do so correctly; therefore, staff will be encouraged not to administer medication in the above situations if they do not feel comfortable and confident in doing so, even if they have received training.

Training for administering AAIs

The school will arrange specialist training for staff on an annual basis where a pupil in the school has been diagnosed as being at risk of anaphylaxis. As part of their training, all staff members will be made aware of:

- How to recognise the signs and symptoms of severe allergic reactions and anaphylaxis.
- Where to find AAIs in the case of an emergency.
- How the dosage correlates with the age of the pupil.
- How to respond appropriately to a request for help from another member of staff.
- How to recognise when emergency action is necessary.
- Who the designated staff members for administering AAIs are.
- How to administer an AAI safely and effectively in the event that there is a delay in response from the designated staff members.
- How to make appropriate records of allergic reactions.

There will be a sufficient number of staff who are trained in and consent to administering AAIs on site at all times.

4. Receiving, storing and disposing of medication

Receiving prescribed medication from parents/carers

The parents/carers of pupils who need medication administered at school will be sent an administering medication parental consent form to complete and sign; the signed consent form will be returned to the school and appropriately filed before staff can administer medication to pupils under the age of 16. A signed copy of the parental consent form will be kept with the pupil's medication, and no medication will be administered if this consent form is not present. Consent obtained from parents will be renewed annually.

Parents/carers will be advised to keep medication provided to the school in the original packaging, complete with prescription and doctors (where applicable) instructions, as far as possible, particularly for liquid medications where transfer from the original bottle would result in the loss of some of the medication on the inside of the bottle. This does not apply to insulin, which can be stored in an insulin pen.

Storing pupils' medication

The school will ensure that all medications are kept appropriately, according to the product instructions, and are securely stored. Medication that may be required in emergency circumstances, e.g. asthma inhalers and AAIs, will be stored in the Medical Room. All other medication will be stored in a place inaccessible to pupils. Where educational visits take place the children's medication will be held by the adult responsible for that particular child.

The school will ensure that pupils know where their medication is at all times and are able to access them immediately.

Medication stored in the school will be:

- Kept in the original container alongside the instructions for use.
- Clearly labelled with:
  - The pupil's name.
  - the name of the medication.
  - The correct dosage.
  - The frequency of administration.
  - Any likely side effects.
  - The expiry date.

- Stored alongside the accompanying administering medication parental consent form. These will be scanned to Meditracker.

Medication that does not meet the above criteria will not be administered.

Disposing of pupils' medication

The school will not store surplus or out-of-date medication. Where medication and/or its containers need to be returned to the pupils' doctor or pharmacist, parents will be asked to collect these for this purpose.

Needles and other sharps will be disposed of safely and securely, e.g. using a sharps disposal box.

5. Administering medication

Medication will only be administered at school if it would be detrimental to the pupil not to do so. Only suitably qualified members of staff will administer controlled drugs. Staff will check the expiry date and maximum dosage of the medication being administered to the pupil each time it is administered, as well as when the previous dose was taken.

Medication will be administered in a private, comfortable environment and, as far as possible, in the same room as the medication is stored; this will normally be the medical room. The room will be equipped with the following provisions:

- Arrangements for increased privacy where intimate contact is necessary
- Facilities to enable staff members to wash their hands before and after administering medication, and to clean any equipment before and after use if necessary
- Available PPE for use where necessary

Before administering medication, the responsible member of staff should check:

- The pupil's identity.
- That the school possesses written consent from a parent.
- That the medication name, dosage and instructions for use match the details on the consent form.
- That the name on the medication label is the name of the pupil being given the medication.
- That the medication to be given is within its expiry date.
- That the pupil has not already been given the medication within the accepted frequency of dosage.

If there are any concerns surrounding giving medication to a pupil, the medication will not be administered and the school will consult with the pupil's parent or a healthcare professional, documenting any action taken.

If a pupil cannot receive medication in the method supplied, e.g. a capsule cannot be swallowed, written instructions on how to administer the medication must be provided by the pupil's parent, following advice from a healthcare professional.

Where appropriate, pupils will be encouraged to self-administer under the supervision of a staff member, provided that parental consent for this has been obtained. If a pupil refuses to take their medication, staff will not force them to do so but will follow the procedure agreed upon in their IHPs, and parents will be informed so that alternative options can be considered.

The school will not be held responsible for any side effects that occur when medication is taken correctly.

Written records will be kept of all medication administered to pupils, including the date and time that medication was administered and the name of the staff member responsible. This will be recorded on Meditracker. Records will be stored in accordance with the Records Management Policy.

Non-prescription medicines

The school is aware that pupils may, at some point, suffer from minor illnesses and ailments of a short-term nature, and that, in these circumstances, health professionals are likely to advise parents to purchase over the counter medicines, for example, paracetamol and antihistamines.

The school will work on the premise that parents have the prime responsibility for their child's health and should provide schools and settings with detailed information about their child's medical condition as and when any illness or ailment arises.

To support full attendance the school will, in specific circumstances, consider making arrangements to facilitate the administration of non-prescription medicines following parental request and consent.

Pupils and parents will not be expected to obtain a prescription for over-the-counter medicines as this could impact on their attendance and adversely affect the availability of appointments with local health services due to the imposition of non-urgent appointments being made.

If a pupil is deemed too unwell to be in school, they will be advised to stay at home or parents will be contacted and asked to take them home.

When making arrangements for the administration of non-prescription medicines the school will exercise the same level of care and caution, following the same processes, protocols and procedures as those in place for the administration of prescription medicines.

The school will also ensure that the following requirements are met when agreeing to administer non-prescription medicines.

- Non-prescription medicines will not be administered for longer than is recommended. For example, most pain relief medicines, such as ibuprofen and paracetamol, will be recommended for three days use before medical advice should be sought. Aspirin will not be administered unless prescribed.
- Parents will be asked to bring the medicine in, on at least the first occasion, to enable the appropriate paperwork to be signed by the parent and for a check to be made of the medication details.
- Non-prescription medicines must be supplied in their original container, have instructions for administration, dosage and storage, and be in date. The name of the child can be written on the container by an adult if this helps with identification.
- Only staff who are sufficiently trained will be able to administer non-prescription medicines.

6. Medical Devices

Asthma inhalers

Asthma inhalers will be stored in the Medical Room under each Year Group. The school will ensure that spare inhalers for pupils are kept safe and secure in preparation for the event that the original is misplaced, unavailable or not working. In the event of an educational trip the staff member responsible for the child will carry the medication with them in their first aid bag.

AAIs

AAIs will be stored in the Medical Room. The school will ensure that spare AAIs for pupils are kept safe and secure in preparation for the event that the original is misplaced, unavailable or not working.

Spare AAIs are not located more than five minutes away from where they may be required. The emergency AAIs can be found at the following locations:

- Medical Room, top shelf, red bag

There will be a stock of AAIs, that are replenished when use. The school will ensure that risk assessments regarding the use and storage of AAIs on the premises are conducted and up-to-date.

Medical authorisation and parental consent will be obtained from all pupils believed to be at risk of anaphylaxis for the use of spare AAIs in emergency situations. Where consent and authorisation has been obtained, this will be recorded in the pupil's IHP.

Using spare AAIs in an emergency situation without prior consent. The spare AAIs will be able to be used in an emergency situation. Anyone may take reasonable action to save a life without checking whether prior consent has been given. This avoids potentially fatal delays in treatment.

Pupils' and spare AAIs will be obtained, stored and administered in line with the school's Allergen and Anaphylaxis Policy.

7. IHPs

For pupils with chronic or long-term conditions and disabilities, an IHP will be developed in liaison with the pupil, their parent, the headteacher, the SENCO and any relevant medical professionals. When deciding what information should be recorded on an IHP, the following will be considered:

- The medical condition and its triggers, signs, symptoms and treatments
- The pupil's resulting needs, such as medication, including the correct dosage and possible side effects, medical equipment, and dietary requirements
- The specific support needed for the pupil's educational, social and emotional needs
- The level of support needed and whether the pupil will be able to take responsibility for their own health needs
- The type of provision and training that is required, including whether staff can be expected to fulfil the support necessary as part of their role
- Which staff members need to be aware of the pupil's condition
- Arrangements for receiving parental consent to administer medication
- Separate arrangements which may be required for out-of-school trips and external activities
- Which staff member can fulfil the role of being a designated, entrusted individual to whom confidentiality issues are raised
- What to do in an emergency, including whom to contact and contingency arrangements
- What is defined as an emergency, including the signs and symptoms that staff members should look out for

The Governing Body will ensure that IHPs are reviewed at least annually. IHPs will be routinely monitored throughout the year by the SENCO, Headteacher and the General Welfare Officer responsible for first aid.

8. Educational Trips and Visits

In the event of educational trips and visits which involve leaving the school premises, medication and medical devices will continue to be readily available to staff and pupils. This may include pupils carrying their medication themselves, where possible and appropriate, e.g. for asthma inhalers.

If the medication is of a type that should not be carried by pupils, e.g. capsules, or if pupils are very young or have complex needs that mean they cannot self-administer, the medication will be carried by a designated staff member for the duration of the trip or activity.

There will be at least one staff member who is trained to administer medication on every out-of school trip or visit which pupils with medical conditions will attend. Staff members will ensure that they are aware of any pupils who will need medication administered during the trip or visit, and will ensure that they know the correct procedure, e.g. timing and dosage, for administering their medication.

If the out-of-school trip or visit will be over an extended period of time, e.g. an overnight stay, a record will be kept of the frequency at which pupils need to take their medication, and any other information that may be relevant. This record will be kept by a designated trained staff member who is present on the trip and can manage the administration of medication.

All staff members, volunteers and other adults present on out-of-school trips and visits will be made aware of the actions to take in a medical emergency related to the specific medical needs and conditions of the pupil, e.g. what to do if an epileptic pupil has a seizure. Children will be allocated to a specific member of staff who is first aid trained and aware of the medical needs of the children in their care.

Providing non-prescription medicines on school trips:

This will be carried out in line with the DfE's statutory guidance on supporting pupils with medical conditions. (See the school's policy on Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school).

The circumstances where the school may administer non-prescription medicines:

- Prior written consent from the pupil's parent/carers has been received
- Its' in line with our school policy
- Staff have checked, and received parental confirmation, that the pupil has previously used the medicine without any medical effect

If staff provide a non-prescribed medicine to pupils, they should:

- Make a record for each pupil at the time, explaining what medicine has been administered and when – this will be recorded on Meditracker once returned to school

- Inform the pupil's parents/carers of child's condition and reason for medication, prior to administering the medication to ensure consent

Ask parents/carers to supply their own non-prescription medicine for their child

Explain the reasons and arrangements for this in a meeting well in advance of the trip taking place.

Make sure any medicine provided by parents/carers is:

- In its original container

- Labelled with clear instructions on when and how it should be taken

Ask parents/carers to return the medicine and consent forms to the school before the day of the trip, to avoid any confusion. This also give staff time to make any necessary arrangements for staff training in how to administer the medicine.

Including non-prescription medicines in the school's first aid kit

There may be occasions where it is appropriate to put non-prescription medicines in the school's first aid kit i.e school journey's or overnight stays.

If this is part of the school's educational visit risk assessment the school will make sure:

- Medicines are purchased from a reliable source
- Check medicines for allergens
- Get prior written consent from parents/carers to administer medicines
- Use appropriate funding

9. Medical emergencies

Medical emergencies will be handled in line with the First Aid Policy.

For all emergency medication stored by the school, the school will ensure it is readily accessible to staff and the pupil who requires it and is not locked away.

10. Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Governing Body and Headteacher. The next scheduled review is October 2027.

Records of medication administered on the school premises, or on school trips and visits, will be monitored, and the information recorded will be used to improve school procedures.

Staff members trained in administering medication will routinely recommend any improvements to the procedure. The school will also seek advice from any relevant healthcare professionals as deemed necessary. Any changes made to this policy will be communicated to the relevant stakeholders, including pupils whose medication is stored at school and their parents.

Appendix A:



South Grove Primary School

Parental/Carer consent to administer a prescribed medicine

- All prescribed medicines must be in the original container as dispensed by the pharmacy, with the child's name, the name of the medicine, the dose and the frequency of administration, the expiry date and the date of dispensing included on the pharmacy label.
- A separate form is required for **each medicine**.

Child's name	
Child's date of birth	
Class	
Name of medicine and expiry date	
Strength of medicine	
How much (dose) to be given. For example: **One tablet** **One 5ml spoonful**	
At what time(s) the medication should be given	
Reason for medication	
Duration of medicine Please specify how long your child needs to take the medication for.	
Are there any possible side effects that the school needs to know about? If yes, please list them	

Please also complete on reverse.

Mobile number of parent/carer	
Daytime landline for parent/carer	
Alternative emergency contact name	
Alternative emergency phone no.	
Name of child's GP practice	
Phone no. of child's GP practice	

- I give my permission for staff members to administer the prescribed medicine to my child during the time they at school. I will inform the school immediately, in writing, if there is any change in dosage or frequency of the medication or if the medicine is stopped.
- I understand that it may be necessary for this medicine to be administered during educational visits and other out of school activities, as well as on the school premises.
- I confirm that the dose and frequency requested is in line with the manufacturers' instructions on the medicine.
- I also agree that I am responsible for collecting any unused or out of date medicines and returning them to the pharmacy for disposal and supplying new stock to the school, if necessary.
- The above information is, to the best of my knowledge, accurate at the time of writing

In consideration for the Headteacher or the School's staff agreeing to give medication to my above named child during school hours, I agree to indemnify the Headteacher, the School's staff and the Local Education Authority against all claims, costs, actions and demands whatsoever resulting from the administration of the medicine unless such claims, costs, actions or demands result out of the negligence of the Headteacher, the School's staff or the Local Education Authority.

Parent/carer name		
Parent/carer signature		
Date		