Administration of Medication Policy

PURPOSE

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

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.

POLICY

If a student requires medication, Auburn South Primary School encourages parents to arrange for the medication to be taken outside of school hours. However, Auburn South Primary School understands that students may need to take medication at school or school activities. To support students to do so safely, Auburn South 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 school nurse may agree that written authority can be provided by, or the Medication Authority Form can be completed by a student's parents/carers.
- The school nurse 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 nurse 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 school nurse 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.
- A log is kept of medicine administered to a student
- 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:
    - is informed that the student needs to receive their medication
    - if necessary, release the student from class to obtain their medication.

In some cases it may be appropriate for students to self-administer their medication. The school nurse 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 school nurse 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 school nurse 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, Auburn South Primary School will store student medication in the first aid room.

The school nurse 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.

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Warning

Auburn South Primary School **will not**:

- 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:

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 will call Triple Zero "000" for an ambulance at any time.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- School Policy and Advisory Guide:
  - Health Care Needs
  - Health Support Planning Forms
  - Complex Medical Needs
  - Asthma Policy
  - Anaphylaxis Policy
  - First Aid Policy
  - Health Care Needs Policy

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was ratified by the Principal in 2023 and is scheduled for review in 2026.