

POLICY TITLE: Administration of Medication Policy
 LAST REVIEWED: October 2023
 SCHEDULED REVIEW DATE: October 2027

ENPS MISSION: We maximise the potential of all; empowering independence, excellence, innovation and engagement with the world.

Critical Engagement with the World	Academic Excellence	Inclusive Learning Environment	Personal and Social Wellbeing
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PURPOSE

To explain to parents/carers, students and staff the processes Essendon North 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

This policy should be read with Essendon North Primary School’s *First Aid, Health Care Needs, Anaphylaxis* and *Asthma* policies.

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

Essendon North Primary School:

- outlines the school’s processes and protocols, and communicates this information to the school community
- protects student privacy and confidentiality to avoid stigmatisation
- ensures teachers fulfil their duty of care by assisting students to take their medication where appropriate.

Essendon North Primary School ensures all medication to be administered is:

- accompanied by written advice providing directions for appropriate storage and administration
- in the original container with the original label including the name of the student, information on the dosage and time to be administered
- within its expiry date
- stored according to the product instructions, particularly in relation to temperature.

Essendon North Primary School encourages parents or carers to consider whether they can administer medication outside the school day, such as before and after school and before bed.

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 our Administration Team for a Medication Authority Form. These are available at the Front Office as a hard copy.

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:

- 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, Essendon North Primary School will store student medication in our First Aid Room located 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

Essendon North Primary School will not:

- In accordance with Department of Education policy, Essendon North Primary School will not store or administer painkillers, such as aspirin and paracetamol, as a standard first aid strategy due to their potential to mask signs and symptoms of serious illness or injury. Administration of over-the-counter medications (including paracetamol) will be used as a last resort and require a current annual [Medication Authority Form](#) signed by the parent or guardian before administration can occur. For further information refer to the Department’s Policy and Advisory Library: [Medication](#)
- 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.

School staff should seek emergency medical assistance if they are concerned about a student’s behaviour following medication.

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.

COMMUNICATION

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

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Included in staff induction processes
- Included in our staff handbook
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES:

The Department's Policy and Advisory Library:

- [Asthma](#)
- [Anaphylaxis](#)
- [Complex Medical Care Supports](#)
- [Child and Family Violence Information Sharing Schemes](#)
- [Diabetes](#)
- [Duty of Care](#)
- [Epilepsy and Seizures](#)
- [First Aid for Students and Staff](#)
- [Health Care Needs](#)
- [Health Support Planning Forms](#)
- [Privacy and Information Sharing](#)

RELATED POLICIES

- [Anaphylaxis Policy](#)
- [Asthma Policy](#)
- [Duty of Care Policy](#)
- [First Aid for Students and Staff Policy](#)
- [Health Care Needs Policy](#)
- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 (Vic)
- Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017 (Vic)
- WorkSafe Compliance Code – First Aid in the Workplace

HELP FOR NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS



If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Essendon North Primary School on (03) 9379 3979.

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy Last Reviewed	October 2023
Approved By	Kate Barletta
Next Scheduled Review Date	October 2027- <i>noting that the recommended minimum review cycle for this policy is 3 to 4 years</i>