
STRATHEARN
S C H O O L
B E L F A S T

June 2019

HEALTH INFORMATION

Dear Parent

At Strathearn full time cover in the medical room is provided by our School Health Nurses, Mrs C Boyd and Mrs A Jordan. This is to ensure high quality care and continuity of service throughout the school day. As part of this service there are a number of points we would like to bring to your attention:

General Information

- **Your daughter should be kept at home for 24 hours if she is acutely unwell or infectious, e.g., if she is suffering from vomiting/diarrhoea/flu.**
- In line with our **policy for the administration of medication in school**, which is available to view in full on our school website (www.strathearn.org.uk), the Board of Governors and staff of Strathearn School wish to ensure that pupils with medication needs receive appropriate care and support at school. There is no legal duty which requires school staff to administer medication – this is a voluntary role which involves providing appropriate treatment / medication if required.
- Prescribed medication will not be accepted in school without complete written and signed instructions from a parent. Parents are responsible for providing the school with comprehensive information regarding the pupil's condition and medication.
- Staff will only give a non prescribed medicine to a child if there is specific prior written permission from the parents. **If pupils receive any medication during the course of the day, a card with this information will be sent home with the pupil.**

Current legislation, the Human Medicines (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations 2014 has allowed schools to purchase a salbutamol inhaler for use in an emergency, if a pupil's prescribed inhaler and spare inhaler are not available (for example, if they are broken or empty); we would like to offer pupils this choice, as part of their wider asthma management plan.

- Pupils *must not* leave the school grounds even if feeling unwell. Arrangements to go home must be made through the medical room. Pupils can then be collected from Reception.
- Please ensure all contact numbers are up to date.

Medication Consent Forms

- Please fill in the enclosed Medication Consent form and return it **in the envelope provided** to your daughter's Form Tutor **on the first day of term**, otherwise the School Health Nurses will not be permitted to give the appropriate treatment/medication if required.
- Paracetamol is our first choice of pain relief and will be given either as tablets, soluble tablets or suspension. Ibuprofen, however, may be given for period pain or inflammatory conditions, if it is thought to be beneficial.
- Antihistamine or hay fever medication in the form of Cetirizine Hydrochloride (in tablet or syrup form), a non-sedating medication, may be given if it is thought to be beneficial.
- Consent forms will be issued yearly to keep our records up to date.

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Pupil's own medication

Parents may prefer for their daughter to receive alternative medication for pain relief, e.g. Migraleve or Ponstan, or they may need prescribed medication, e.g. antibiotics.

In this case parents will be required to provide a supply of the medicine (clearly labelled and in date) to the School Health Nurses. A covering letter should include the following details:

- ❖ *pupil's name, form and date of birth*
- ❖ *name of medication and dosage required*
- ❖ *under what circumstances the medication should be administered*
- ❖ *storage requirements and expiry date*
- ❖ *the letter should be signed by the parent/guardian and dated.*

This medication will normally be kept in a locked cupboard in the medical room, unless advised otherwise, and administered when necessary.

Pupils carrying their own medication

We would request that pupils refrain from carrying their own medication in school* as:

- (i) this may prevent School Health Nurses from giving further treatment, in case of overdosing or drug interaction

and

- (ii) pupils must not be in a position to hand out tablets to one another.
(*an exception to this would be if the pupil needed to carry their anaphylaxis medication or inhalers for asthma)

Thank you for your co-operation in these matters.

C Boyd

C Boyd (Mrs) School Health Nurse