



Medication Administration

POLICY

Purpose

To explain to parents/carers, students and staff the processes Ocean Grove 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 and for students with on going medication

Policy

If a student requires medication, Ocean Grove Primary School encourages parents to arrange for the medication to be taken outside of school hours. However, Ocean Grove Primary School understands that students may need to take medication at school or school activities. To support students to do so safely, Ocean Grove 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 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 Ocean Grove Primary School for a Medication Authority Form.

Administering medication

Any ongoing medication brought to school for a student needs to be **clearly labelled in a webster pack** and handed to the Administration staff by a parent/guardian.

Parents/guardians are required to complete a School Medication Authority form for any medication to be administered at school.

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 School 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.

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 instructions, particularly in relation to temperature.

For most students, Ocean Grove Primary School will store student medication at the front office in the sick bay.

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 Asthma and Anaphylaxis medication should be stored securely in the student's classroom if quick access may be required.

Warning

Ocean Grove Primary School will not:

- in accordance with Department of Education (DE) 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.
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In the case of an emergency, school staff may call Triple Zero “000” for an ambulance at any time the associated costs will be covered by parents/guardians.

COMMUNICATION

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

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff induction processes

Further information and resources

The Department's Policy and Advisory Library (PAL):

- [Medication Policy](#)
- [First Aid for Students and Staff Policy](#)

Our School policies and documents:

- First Aid Policy
- Health Care Needs Policy
- Medication Authority Form
- Medication Administration Log

Policy review and approval

Policy last reviewed	April 2023
Approved by	Principal

Next scheduled review date	April 2026-2027 – the recommended minimum review cycle for this policy is 3 to 4 years.
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Extracted from <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/medication/policy>