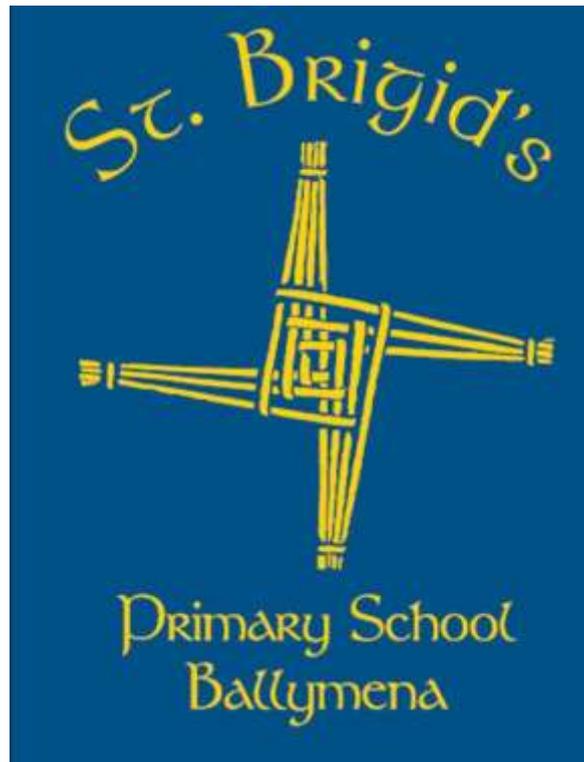


St. Brigid's Primary School



"Growing in Mind, Body and Spirit"

Medication Policy

Reviewed September 2016

SCHOOL MEDICATION POLICY GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS

At St. Brigid's P.S. we wish to support our parents and pupils during periods of pupil illness. In doing so we must find a balance between the effects of illness on a pupil's attendance and learning and the role of school staff in respect of administering or supervising the taking of medication. We have sought advice from a number of health professionals and a number of educational bodies (including the Department of Education N.I. and the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety). The school's full medication policy is available from the school should you wish to view it. Please find detailed below a shortened version of this policy.

St. Brigid's P.S. School Medication Policy – Shortened Version

- Parents should note that school staff (teaching and non-teaching) have no contractual obligation to administer or supervise the taking of medications in school. Any staff member involved in the above will do so on a voluntary basis. The only exceptions to this occur in the case of a staff member who, as part of their role, is specifically employed and trained to meet the medical needs of a pupil.
- Medication needs within St. Brigid's among pupils can be categorised into 3 distinct groupings. They are:
 1. Short-term medical needs such as acute conditions (common cold, ear infection, chest infection etc).
 2. Long-term medical needs (asthma, Diabetes, ADHD etc) which require regular medication and;
 3. Emergency situation medical needs when either a known medical condition causes action to be taken (allergic reaction etc) or an emergency arises "out of the blue".

SHORT-TERM MEDICAL NEEDS

In St. Brigid's the vast majority of cases concerning the taking of medication occur in group 1 and parents/ carers should note the following in relation to group 1 medications.

1. Children who are not well enough to be at school should not attend school until they are deemed fit enough to attend. We appreciate that this is generally a judgement call on behalf of parents and we remain committed to assisting with this process. From time to time a child will return to school when still recovering from illness and this will cause no problems whatsoever for them eg: in the case of a child in the final days of a course of anti-biotics etc. Other children may return to school still suffering from the effects of their illness or as a result of parents/ carers judging them to be fit enough to attend. In situations where the school feels a child should not be at school parents/ carers will be informed and a request made to take the pupil home. In an effort to avoid this situation parents are asked to consider carefully whether a child is fit to attend. Our advice would be that if you are in any doubt at all the child should not be in school.
2. Should a child require medication as a result of short-term illness parents should note the following:

- Many medications, whether bought over the counter or prescribed by a doctor, allow for a dosage pattern that means they can be taken at times outside the school day eg: in the morning before school, in the afternoon after school and in the evening before bedtime.

The general policy of the school is that such medications will not be administered in school by school staff.

Should a child require short-term medication outside of these times a parent or parent representative should come to school and administer the medication to the child. We, at the school will be happy to facilitate such an arrangement. The child should not bring the medication with them to school.

In the event of the above being impossible to implement parents should in the first instance contact the school principal to discuss the issue further.

Parents should note that any alteration to the above policy after discussion with the principal will only be permitted in the most unworkable circumstances therefore the expectation is that such cases will be rare.

LONG-TERM MEDICAL NEEDS

Some pupils may have medical needs that require regular administration of medication in order to maintain their access to education. This includes conditions such as Anaphylaxis, Diabetes, Asthma etc. In some cases a Health Care Plan is devised for such children taking into account expert medical advice and requiring staff training in medical procedures eg: in the use of an Epipen. For some children their access to medication within this group will involve the use of inhalers etc. Parents/ Carers should note the following:

- Medication eg: used in response to an allergic reaction is subject to strict guidelines on its storage and use. The school policy also details clearly the role of parents/ carers in relation to such medication. Further details are available in the school medication policy and parents/ carers of children with such conditions will receive the guidance from the school on diagnosis and/ or when the policy is reviewed.
- It is the responsibility of the parent/ carer to inform the school regarding a child's medical condition and to ensure that a child with a long-term medical condition such as asthma has their inhalers etc with them. Where it is possible children will self-administer their medication as they require it. As this is not always possible (depending on the age of the pupil etc) parents/ carers must speak with the school principal to investigate alternative arrangements. Staff will encourage pupils to report occasions when they have taken this medication.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL NEEDS

All staff in St. Brigid's will be knowledgeable in relation to calling the emergency services. This will include detail on who is responsible for making a call to emergency services and information that needs to be shared with them.