



## Managing Your Child's Health and Medical Needs at Brabyns

This policy applies to the whole school, including EYFS and Wraparound.

**Medical Coordinator: Janine Sharp**

### Introduction

This booklet provides parents with information regarding illnesses and medical procedures at Brabyns and is in line with current recommended practice. If you have any queries regarding medicines and health in school please contact Miss Sharp, the Medical Coordinator.

### Short Term Illnesses

If your child is unwell then they should be kept off school to aid their recovery and prevent the spread of infection.

The guidelines for how long to keep your child off school for different illnesses eg chicken pox, impetigo is contained within our First Aid Policy, available on the school website.

If your child is feeling well enough to attend school but still requires some prescription medication then the following guidelines will help you decide if staff can assist in the dispensing of their medicine. Please note that staff are not required by law to dispense medicine and some may feel unable to do this. If this is the case you will be referred to the school medical coordinator who will hopefully be able to help.

Staff will ask you the 5 following questions to determine whether it is safe for your child to be in school and if we can help with medication:

#### **1. What is the medicine for?**

This is to find out whether your child is contagious and should not be in school. Staff may need to refer to our Department of Health medical guidelines or the Medical Coordinator if they have any doubts.

#### **2. Has the medicine been prescribed by your child's GP?**

Only prescription medicine can be given in school according to the directions of a doctor. Calpol/cough mixture, etc. cannot be given as this requires staff to make a clinical judgement on your child. If your child suffers from prolonged or regular pain your GP can prescribe Calpol, etc. on prescription.

#### **3. Is the medicine in the original container with the doctor's instructions attached?**

Medicine can only be given if stored in the original container; with the correct directions attached. This is the only proof staff have of the correct dosage to give your child and could prevent a serious error.



#### **4. Is this a 'three times a day' antibiotic?**

If yes, then medical guidelines from the Stockport School Nurse are that it is perfectly acceptable for the doses to be given before school, when collected and at bedtime. This eliminates the need for medicine to be administered at school which is always preferable. If your child attends our Stay and Play facility then the after school dose can be given at school.

#### **5. Is this medicine going to be required by the child long term?**

This helps us to decide whether you need to complete a Medicine Permission and Health Care Plan form.

If, after these questions, we agree to give medicine then you will be asked to complete and sign a Medical Permission Form with the member of staff agreeing to dispense your child's medicine. This is so you can explain any special arrangements to them. The medicine and form will then be stored safely (according to instructions) in a locked room. Your child will be given their medicine at the specified time and if they refuse to take a dose you will be notified by telephone.

We are not permitted to force a child to take his/her medicine.

Medicine should be collected from and given directly to the member of staff who has agreed to dispense it each day. Please do not send medicine in with your child. Unsecured medicine in a school bag is a health and safety risk not only for your child but for all of the children in our care.

### **Health Care Plans**

Children with medical needs have the same rights of admission to a school or setting as other children. Most children will at some time have short-term medical needs, perhaps entailing finishing a course of medicine such as antibiotics. Some children however have longer term medical needs and may require medicines on a long-term basis to keep them well, for example children with well-controlled epilepsy or cystic fibrosis. Others may require medicines in particular circumstances; children with severe allergies who may need an adrenaline injection or those with severe asthma needing a daily inhaler and additional doses during an attack. Most children with medical needs are able to attend school regularly and can take part in normal activities. However, staff may need to take extra care in supervising some activities to make sure that these children, and others, are not put at risk.

An individual Health Care Plan can help staff identify the necessary safety measures to support children with medical needs. At Brabyns we ask you to complete a Health Care Plan, and review it yearly, if your child has any ongoing medical issues. This enables all staff interacting with your child on a daily basis to support them. If regular medicine is required then a member of staff will be designated to dispense this. All of the forms will be explained to you and you may wish to have a more detailed discussion with the medical co-ordinator regarding your child's condition. The storage and dispensing of medicines will be the same as for 'short term illnesses' outlined above although the medicine may remain in school for the whole term. It will be sent home for checking, updating, etc. over the main holidays. Any medicine uncollected at the end of a school year will be disposed of safely at a pharmacy.

Please remember you can always come into school to administer medicine yourself.

*Next Review Autumn 2023*