

Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Nursery Policy on Administering Medicines

Mission Statement

"You are precious in my eyes" - Isaiah 43

- ◆ *Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Nursery is committed to the widest and fullest education of all pupils in a partnership between home, nursery, parish and community.*
- ◆ *Our nursery aims to create a happy, ordered environment where all members feel secure, valued and respect each other.*
- ◆ *Our nursery aims to be a positive force within the Catholic church inspired by the life of Christ in the Gospels*

Children with short-term medical needs

It is our policy that medicines will not be administered to children who are unwell with short-term minor illnesses. This includes both infectious and non-infectious illness. Nursery life can be demanding and the environment is not always conducive to supporting children's recovery. If your child feels unwell, we recommend that parents keep them at home where they can be more comfortable.

To control the spread of contagion children with any infectious illness will not be able to attend nursery. In the case of children having diarrhoea and/or vomiting, with or without a specified diagnosis, we ask for 48 hours clear of any signs and symptoms before returning to nursery.

If a child becomes ill while at nursery, staff will make every effort to make the child comfortable until the parent/carer arrives. The Nursery Supervisor/ deputy will contact parents/carers in order to arrange for the child to be collected.

If a child is prescribed antibiotics we request that the child does not attend nursery for at least the first two days, this will give the child a chance to start recovery. We then ask parents to arrange a time (usually lunchtime) to administer the prescribed dosage of antibiotics they may require throughout the day.

Children with long-term medical needs

Medicines will be administered to children who require medication on a long-term/permanent basis in order for them to remain fit and well. In such cases an individual care plan will be made involving the parents and relevant health care professionals. Parents have the prime responsibility for their child's health and should provide nursery with information about their child's medical condition on registering their child at nursery. Parents should obtain correct up to date details from their child's General Practitioner or Paediatrician. Care plans will also include instructions as to how to manage the child's condition in the event of an emergency. Care plans **must** be in place and staff to have received appropriate training **prior** to the child starting nursery.

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Nursery's policy on assisting children with long term or complex medical needs; including gathering sufficient information about the medical condition of any child and the impact of any medication prescribed, detailing how a health care plan will be implemented in partnership with parents and relevant health professionals.

The Health Care Plan includes:

- details of a child's condition
- special requirements e.g. dietary needs, pre-activity precautions
- side effects of any medication
- what constitutes an emergency
- what action to take in an emergency
- what not to do in the event of an emergency
- who to contact in an emergency
- the role the staff can play
- regular reviews to meet the current needs of an individual child
- information about staff training in dealing with medical needs

Administering Medicines

Medicines are only administered for ongoing health conditions for, example asthma. All medication is administered with parent's written consent and in compliance with the administering medicines code of practice, and nursery policy and procedures.

Medicines must be in the original containers, as dispensed by the pharmacist and include the prescriber's instructions. These must include-

- Name of child
- Name of medicine
- Dose
- Method of administration
- Time/frequency of administration
- Any side effects
- Expiry dates

Nursery will keep written records each time medicines are administered. Nursery will not administer non-prescribed medicines.

Storage of medicines

All medicines, including asthma inhalers, are stored in a locked first aid cupboard in nursery to allow for easy access.

Nursery keeps a spare asthma inhaler/auto injector in the locked first aid cupboard.

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Educational visits and sporting activities

All children are encouraged to participate in visits and physical activities. Nursery will consider what reasonable adjustments we can make to enable children to participate. Staff supervising outings of any sort will be aware of any medical needs and relevant emergency procedures. A copy of any health care plans will be taken on visits (outside of shared school areas).

Required medications (those listed on the child's health care plan) will be taken on outings/trips (including shared school areas) in a portable first aid bag.

Management of an allergic reaction/anaphylaxis

From 1 October 2017 the Human Medicines (Amendment) Regulations 2017 will allow all school/early years settings to buy adrenaline auto-injector (AAI) devices without a prescription, for emergency use in children who are at risk of anaphylaxis but their own device is not available or not working (e.g. because it is broken, or out-of-date). In the event of an anaphylactic episode a child's out of date/faulty auto injector would only be administered as advised by a paramedic or doctor.

The nursery's spare AAI will only be used on children known to be at risk of anaphylaxis, for whom both medical authorisation and written parental consent for use of the spare AAI has been provided. The nursery's spare AAI can be administered to a child whose own prescribed AAI cannot be administered correctly without delay.

For full details see the '*Guidance on the use of adrenaline auto-injectors in schools*' which can be found on the bottom shelf of the office cupboard or subsequently via the gov.uk web page https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/645476/Adrenaline_auto_injectors_in_schools.pdf

Staff Training

Nursery will ensure staff have appropriate training, when required, to support children with medical needs or conditions.

Signature of Chair of Committee members: _____ **Date:** _____

Signature of Nursery Supervisor: _____ **Date:** _____