



KING'S COLLEGE SCHOOL
ALICANTE

King's Group Policy Medication in School

Policy Owner: School Nurse

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Introduction

The purpose of the Medication Policy is to provide standards for safe and proper administration of medications to pupils at King's College Alicante. It is now extremely common for some children at school to be on medication, either short term or long term. Antibiotics and painkillers are ubiquitous, and asthma medication is now given to ever increasing numbers of children. A more recent problem is the child with acute food allergies (e.g. shellfish) who requires emergency adrenaline (Epipen).

Some pupils may have medical conditions that, if not managed, could limit their access to education. Most of these children with medical needs are able to attend school regularly and, with support from the school, can take part in most normal school activities and achieve their full potential. King's College Alicante is fully committed to assisting every child in achieving their full potential, regardless of disability.

This policy is aimed at staff and parents and contains information on the following:

- Procedures for managing prescription medicines which need to be taken during the school day.
- A clear statement on the roles and responsibility of staff managing the administration of medicines, and for administering or supervising the administration of medicines.
- A clear statement on parental responsibilities in respect of their child's medical needs.
- The need for prior written agreement from parents for any medicines to be given to a child
- The circumstances in which children may take any non-prescription medicines.
- The school or setting policy on assisting children with long-term or complex medical needs.
- Staff training in managing medicines safely and supporting an identified individual child.
- Record keeping.
- Safe storage of medicines.
- Procedures for managing prescription medicines on trips and outings.
- Expectations that teachers will not have personal medication in classrooms or areas where pupils have access

Procedures for managing prescription medicines which need to be taken during the school day

- Permission to administer antipyretic/analgesic medication is requested on each pupil's School Health Record when commencing at King's College Alicante.
- Every attempt will be made by the School Nurse to contact a parent/guardian before administering medication. If the School Nurse has any doubts following careful assessment, medication will be withheld.
- A record of the administration will be made in the 'Medical Centre'. If the medication is chronic (daily) or has been prescribed for emergency situations it will be registered on the Medical History and after each administration, the school nurse will note it on the "Diary". If the administration of the medication is only punctual because of any kind of aches, it will be recorded only on "Diary". The parents will always be informed.
- Parents are responsible for supplying information regarding the medicines that their child needs to take at school and for informing the school of any changes to the prescription or the support needed.
- Medicines should only be taken to school when essential; that is where it would be detrimental to a child's health if the medicine were not administered during the school or day. King's College Alicante will only accept medicines that have been prescribed by a doctor (unless they are 'over-the-counter' medicines in which case parents need to fill out the appropriate forms). Medicines should always be provided in the original container and the relevant form should include the diagnosis and prescriber's instructions for administration and dosage.
- King's College Alicante never accepts medicines that have been taken out of the container as originally dispensed nor make changes to dosages on parental instructions.
- Where clinically appropriate, medicines should be prescribed in dose frequencies which enable it to be taken outside school hours. Some medicines which need to be taken 3 X daily can be taken in the morning, after school hours and at bedtime.

- Any child at King's College Alicante should never be given aspirin-containing medicine unless prescribed by a doctor.
- Administration of medicine will be at the nurse's discretion. If the nurse has any doubt regarding the suitability or dosage of the medicine s/he may request clarification from a doctor, a more detailed doctor's report or may not accept to administer. This will apply to both over the counter and prescription medicines.
- Children need constant reminders to comply with their medication schedule and need the help of the class teachers and nurse to do so. If the nurse's attention needs to be focused on other patients' issues and the child fails to show for his/her medication in spite of the reminders, the administration of the medication may be delayed or not given.
- On no account should children bring medicines to school themselves. They must be brought in by a responsible adult and handed directly to a member of staff, ideally the nurse. Medicine must be brought in its original container which clearly identifies the drug and expiration date.
- Medicines will be kept in a locked cupboard. They have no part in first aid provision and will be kept separately from first aid supplies. The only exception to this may be emergency drugs such as Epi-pen or inhalers which need to be immediately available, in which case are placed in clearly labelled boxes in the nurse's office, where there is no risk to other children.
- A supply of medicine is kept in the medical room for staff use.

Controlled Drugs

- Any member of staff may administer a controlled drug to the child for whom it has been prescribed. Staff administering medicine should do so in accordance with the prescriber's instructions.
- A controlled drug, as with all medicines, should be returned to the parent when no longer required in order to arrange for safe disposal.
- All controlled drugs should be kept in a locked cupboard unless immediate access is required in an emergency (for example, in the case of an extended epileptic fit requiring rectal diazepam).

Administering Medicines

No child should be administered medication without their parent's consent. Any member of staff administering medicines should check the following:

- The child's name
- Prescribed dose
- Expiry date
- Written instructions provided by the prescriber/parent on the completed medication form
- If the member of staff administering the medication has any doubt, they should not administer the medication but check with the parents before taking further action.
- By law, early years' settings MUST keep written records each time medicines are given. This helps to demonstrate that staff has exercised a duty of care. In relation to the administration of a controlled drug, such as rectal diazepam, it is essential to have the dosage and administration witnessed by a second adult.
- The 'Medicine Log/Medical Record Log' is kept in the nurse's office and is a record of all medicines administered by either the school nurse, or in her absence, another member of staff.

Self-Management

King's College Alicante supports and encourages children who are able to take responsibility to manage their own medicines. This is with particular reference to severe asthmatics (who may be required to carry their own inhalers) and diabetics (in the administration of insulin).

If a child is able to administer his/her own medication, staff should be there in a supportive and supervising role. The safety of other children always needs to be taken into consideration.

Inhalers should be immediately available to children. Each asthmatic pupil who does not carry his or her own inhaler, should know exactly where it can be found when needed and have immediate access to it. All pupils' inhalers are kept in the Nurse's office. Each inhaler should be clearly marked with the pupil's name. It is the parents' responsibility to replace the inhaler upon expiration and keep a track of this.

Medicines that require refrigeration should be kept in the refrigerator in the Nurse's office, clearly labelled with the pupils' name.

Refusing Medicines

If a child refuses to take medicine, staff should not force them to do so, but should make a note of this in the 'medicine file'. Parents should be informed of the refusal on the same day. If a refusal to take medicines results in an emergency, King's College Alicante First Aid policy emergency procedure steps should be followed.

Medications on Day Trips and Residential Trips

A named person will be a member of staff who is willing to accept responsibility for the administration of emergency medication or the supervision/ administration of regular medication. An agreement will be made following consultation with the staff member, parents/guardians and the School Nurse. This ideally should be a First Aid qualified member of staff.

The School Nurse will give training, relevant to the requirements of the situation, to the named person.

Documentation will be completed by parents/guardians requesting the administration of medication for each individual trip.

Medication should be provided by the parents in the dosage required, appropriately labelled, with the appropriate form and handed to the School Nurse, in person at least 2 days before the school trip. An exception to this may be in the case of medications such as an inhaler, in which case the child may need it with them at all times.

All medication should be kept with the First-Aid bag and Medical file throughout the school trip.

Sporting Activities

Whenever possible, all children should be encouraged to participate in PE as for most children, physical activity can benefit their overall social, mental and physical health and well-being.

Some children may need to take precautionary measures before or during exercise, and may need to be allowed immediate access to their medicines such as asthma inhalers or in the case of diabetes, dextrose tablets. These medications are accessible to the relevant pupils at all times in the Nurse's office.

Staff training in managing medicines safely and supporting an identified individual child

All First-Aiders at King's College Alicante will be trained by the School Nurse in the safe administration of medications. Whenever possible, the School Nurse is responsible for administering medications. However, in her absence, it is strongly recommended that a member of staff who has undergone the 'safe administration of medications' training be responsible for the administration of medicines.

Those members of staff who are supporting an identified individual child in their care (for example, in cases of asthma/diabetes etc.), will be trained by the School Nurse in the care and management of these pupils (see appropriate policies; 'asthma policy', 'diabetes policy').

Expectations that teachers will not have personal medication in classrooms or areas where pupils have access

All school staff must exercise vigilance with their personal belongings and if possible store them in the staff room, best practice is for all staff members to have a locker at school. Handbags and briefcases should be stored far away from pupils. Staff must not have personal medicine in a bag or unlocked drawer or cupboard.

References

1. 'Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings' DfES/DoH 2005 – updated 2007.

Appendix 1: Medication Form (collected electronically)

King's College Alicante

MEDICATION FORM

PARENT/GUARDIAN INSTRUCTION FORM

Medicine must be brought in by parent and NOT sent with child

Name of Pupil _____ Date of birth _____

Class _____

Parent/Guardian printed name

I request and consent for my son/daughter to be given the following medications by the school nurse or school personnel designated by the school nurse, which I have sent in its original container, correctly labelled

Name of medicine

Dosage to be given each time

Times that medicine is to be given

Start Date _____

Stop Date (e.g. last day of administration) _____

Has the medicine been given before? YES NO

Is the child receiving any other medicines? (If so please state which) YES NO

Name and reason for giving this medicine

Are you aware of any current or possible side effects? If so, please list

My son/daughter has the following food or drug allergies:

I request and consent to have the School Nurse or school personnel designated by the School Nurse administer the medicine, which I understand will be given at the nurse's discretion.

I give permission for my son/daughter to self-administer medication, if the school nurse determines it is safe and appropriate. _____ YES _____ NO

I give permission to the school nurse to share information relevant to the prescribed medication administration as he/she determines appropriate for my son's/daughter's health and safety.

I understand I may retrieve the medication from the school at any time; however, the medication will be destroyed if it is not picked up within one week following termination of the order or by the end of the school year, and whichever is the earlier.

Full name (Please print)

Signature Date

PLEASE NOTE - FORM MUST BE COMPLETED IN FULL