

Potentially Life Threatening and Chronic Medical Conditions

Introduction

The policy has been drawn up for the protection of students in our care and of school staff. The Board recognises that the school and its staff have a duty of care to all students and it will uphold this duty in so far as is reasonable and practicable. The Board (and its appointees) requires the full co-operation of parents and guardians.

This policy is underpinned by the following:

-Legislation:

- Education Act (1998)
- Equal Status Act (2000)
- Education of Persons with Special Needs Act (2004)

-The Education Philosophy of Portmarnock Community School

-Admissions Policy

-Health and Safety Statement

Scope of the Policy

The policy addresses the management of chronic life threatening conditions and the administration of medicines or treatment where appropriate. Examples of such conditions are:

- Asthma
- Diabetes
- Epilepsy
- Chronic Allergies including Susceptibility to Anaphylactic Reaction
- Seizures

Responsibilities of parents

All parents/guardians complete a Student Record Form once their son/daughter has been enrolled in the school. Parents/guardians of students with conditions which come under the terms of this policy are required to fill out a Medical 1 form in addition to the student record form either at the time of enrolment or at anytime during the student's life at the school should s/he develop such a condition. Parents/guardians will be required to complete an indemnity form in conjunction with the Medical 1 form. It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to update the Medical 1 form as appropriate and at least once yearly. They may do so by contacting the main office.

Responsibility of school management

Storage of Medicines

Medicines will be stored in the school office and/or staff room or as agreed between parents/guardians and the school. Medicines may be stored by a student on his/her person, in his/her school bag or his/her locker in cases where immediate access to them is vital. Where storage of medicines by a student poses a potential threat to the health and safety of other students, alternative storage arrangements may be made as agreed with the student, his/her parents/guardians and the school.

Administration of Medicines

The administration of medicines by staff is done on a voluntary basis. No member of staff is compelled to administer medicines to students. However, every reasonable effort will be made by school management to ensure the medicine will be administered by someone in authority in cases where the sufferer is unable to administer the medicine him/herself. In as far as practicable, all staff will be made aware of the procedure for administering the medicines so that they may do so in cases where a delay in administration of same would pose a threat to the life of a student. A number of staff may volunteer to administer medicines in an emergency.

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on 6 November 2007.

Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed annually with a view to monitoring the efficacy of the procedures.
