

MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION POLICY



PURPOSE

To explain to parents/carers, students and staff the processes Frankston Heights Primary School will follow to safely manage the provision of medication to students while at school or school activities, including camps and excursions.

SCOPE

This policy applies to the administration of medication to all students. It does not apply to:

- the provision of medication for anaphylaxis which is provided for in our school's Anaphylaxis Policy
- the provision of medication for asthma which is provided for in our school's Asthma Policy
- specialised procedures which may be required for complex medical care needs.

POLICY

If a student requires medication, Frankston Heights Primary School encourages parents to arrange for the medication to be taken outside of school hours. However, Frankston Heights Primary School understands that students may need to take medication at school or school activities. To support students to do so safely, Frankston Heights Primary School will follow the procedures set out in this policy.

Authority to administer

If a student needs to take medication while at school or at a school activity:

- Parents/carers will need to arrange for the student's treating medical/health practitioner to provide written advice to the school which details:
 - the name of the medication required
 - the dosage amount
 - the time the medication is to be taken
 - how the medication is to be taken
 - the dates the medication is required, or whether it is an ongoing medication
 - how the medication should be stored.
- In most cases, parents/carers should arrange for written advice to be provided in a Medication Authority Form which a student's treating medical/health practitioner should complete.
- If advice cannot be provided by a student's medical/health practitioner, the Principal (or their nominee) may agree that written authority can be provided by, or the Medication Authority Form can be completed by a student's parents/carers.
- The Principal may need to consult with parents/carers to clarify written advice and consider student's individual preferences regarding medication administration (which may also be provided for in a student's Student Health Support Plan).

Parents/carers can contact our First Aid Officer on 9783 4988 or frankston.heights.ps@education.vic.gov.au for a Medication Authority Form. A copy of the form can be downloaded from our school website under the policies tab.

Administering medication

Any medication brought to school by a student needs to be clearly labelled with:

- the student's name
- the dosage required
- the time the medication needs to be administered.

Parents/carers need to ensure that the medication a student has at school is within its expiry date. If school staff become aware that the medication a student has at school has expired, they will promptly contact the student's parents/carers who will need to arrange for medication within the expiry date to be provided.

If a student needs to take medication at school or a school activity, the Principal (or their nominee) will ensure that:

1. Medication is administered to the student in accordance with the Medication Authority Form so that:
 - the student receives their correct medication
 - in the proper dose
 - via the correct method (for example, inhaled or orally)
 - at the correct time of day.
2. A log is kept of medicine administered to a student. (Sentral medical register is used to log all medications at school. A hard copy medical log will be used for school activities, including school camps.)
3. Where possible, two staff members will supervise the administration of medication.
4. The teacher in charge of a student at the time their medication is required:
 - is informed that the student needs to receive their medication
 - if necessary, will release the student from class to obtain their medication.

Note: It is not the school's role to:

- *monitor the effects of medication*
- *interpret behaviour in relation to a medical condition.*

School staff should seek emergency medical assistance if they are concerned about a student's behaviour following medication.

Self-administration

In some cases it may be appropriate for students to self-administer their medication. The Principal may consult with parents/carers and consider advice from the student's medical/health practitioner to determine whether to allow a student to self-administer their medication.

If the Principal decides to allow a student to self-administer their medication, the Principal may require written acknowledgement from the student's medical/health practitioner, or the student's parents/carers that the student will self-administer their medication.

This is not required for students with asthma or anaphylaxis as this is covered under Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) action plan for anaphylaxis and the Asthma Foundation's asthma care plan for schools.

Storing medication

The Principal (or their nominee) will put in place arrangements to ensure:

- stored medication is within its expiry date
- the quantity of medication available does not exceed a week's supply, except in long-term continuous care arrangements
- medication is stored:
 - according to the product instructions, particularly in relation to temperature
 - securely, to minimise risk to others
 - in a place only accessible by staff who are responsible for administering the medication
 - away from the classroom
 - away from the first aid kit.

Frankston Heights Primary School will store all student medication in the First Aid Room. Students in Years 3-6 will carry their asthma reliever medications with them on school excursions and camps.

The Principal may decide, in consultation with parents/carers and/or on the advice of a student's treating medical/health practitioner:

- that the student's medication should be stored securely in the student's classroom if quick access is required
- to allow the student to carry their own medication with them, preferably in the original packaging if:
 - the medication does not have special storage requirements, such as refrigeration
 - doing so does not create potentially unsafe access to the medication by other students.

Warning

Frankston Heights Primary School will not:

- store or administer painkillers such as aspirin and paracetamol as a standard first aid strategy as they can mask signs and symptoms of serious illness or injury
- allow a student to take their first dose of a new medication at school in case of an allergic reaction. This should be done under the supervision of the parent or carer, or health practitioner.
- allow the use of medication by anyone other than the prescribed student.

Note: Only in an emergency situation could this requirement be varied. For example, if a student is having an asthma attack and their own blue reliever puffer is not readily available, one should be obtained and given without delay.

Over-the-counter medications (including paracetamol) require a medication authority form, even if the student is carrying or self-administering their medication.

Medication error

If a student takes medication incorrectly, staff will endeavour to:

Step	Action
1.	If required, follow first aid procedures outlined in the student's Health Support Plan or other medical management plan.
2.	Ring the Poisons Information Line, 13 11 26 and give details of the incident and the student.
3.	Act immediately upon their advice, such as calling Triple Zero "000" if advised to do so.
4.	Contact the student's parents/carers or emergency contact person to notify them of the medication error and action taken.
5.	Review medication management procedures at the school in light of the incident.

In the case of an emergency, school staff may call Triple Zero "000" for an ambulance at any time.

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included as annual reference in school newsletter
- Included in staff induction processes
- Discussed at staff briefings/meetings as required

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

The Department's Policy and Advisory Library (PAL):

- [Medication Policy](#)
- [First Aid for Students and Staff Policy](#)

Related School policies and documents:

- First Aid
- Health Care Needs
- Medication Authority Form

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	July 2024
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	July 2026