

MEDICAL CARE



It is extremely important that school be kept informed of a child's medical condition particularly if your child has a special medical condition, which requires essential or emergency administration of medication. We must also be kept informed of changes to parental contact numbers and emergency numbers so parents can be contacted if their child is ill.

Children are not allowed to take any form of medicine during school hours unless a doctor has prescribed it. In this event, parents must sign a consent form agreeing to deliver the drugs personally to the Headteacher.

Where a child has a contagious condition, which may lead to other being affected, the school should be notified.

THE SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

Throughout their time at school a team of specialist Health Service and Education staff will be seeing children as part of a planned programme to make sure that they benefit as much as possible from all that school has to offer, and to help prepare them for life after leaving school. The school health service is part of Midlothian's Community Child Health Service and has direct links with those who carry out health checks on children before they start school.

Many different services are provided. The issue of maintaining confidentiality is taken seriously by the School Health team at all times. The staff involved make every effort to work closely with parents and with others who are caring for your child, both at school and in other branches of the Health Service. Some of the services, eg testing of vision in Primary 1, are normally provided to all children on a routine basis to discover which children may need further tests or treatment. Parents are not necessarily notified at the time of these screening tests and any parent who does not want a child

to be included should notify the school at the beginning of the session. Naturally, if treatment is thought to be required, parents will be informed and consent requested.

The school nurse is the lead professional in mainstream schools in Midlothian. School nurses are involved with health promotion and education, prevention of ill health, immunisation, health surveillance and screening. The school nurse may be helped by a health assistant and have close working links with Community Paediatricians. The school nurse reviews the notes of all children in Primary 1 as well as those of all new entrants. A member of the school health team measures their growth and tests vision. The school nurse will assess these measurements and results. In addition she reviews all children who are referred either by parents, teachers or other health professionals at any stage in their school life.

If you have concerns about your child's hearing the school can refer him or her to the appropriate specialist directly.

The speech and language therapist can provide assessment and, if necessary, support if you, a teacher, your GP or the school doctor feels that your child may need help with communication. Appointments are normally arranged at the local Speech and Language Therapy clinic with follow-up at school if required. Speech and Language Therapists work closely with school staff and support is often provided as part of a Learning Support programme.

Any queries concerning the provision of dental services should be made to the Director of the Community Dental Service, Duncan Street Dental Centre, 16 Duncan Street, Edinburgh, EH9 1SR (Telephone: 0131-667 7114).

It is important that you notify the school if your child has any medical condition. If you wish medicine to be given by staff to children, it is essential that you discuss this with staff and complete the appropriate consent form.

Should your child have a medical condition that may require essential treatment or emergency administration of medication, the following arrangements exist:

- School staff are under no obligation to administer medication to any child. However, they may volunteer to do so. If no staff volunteer, an emergency procedure will be put in place.
- You will be asked to complete a medical form (MED1 or MED2) available from the school office.
- Schools will hold medication, under secure conditions and clearly marked, for use by/for your child.
- You are responsible for supplying this medication to a responsible member of staff. **YOU SHOULD NOT SEND IT WITH YOUR CHILD.** You are responsible for maintaining up to date medication.
- If your child requires to receive emergency treatment eg injections using an EpiPen, the Community Paediatrician will brief staff at the school on its use. Training will be given in respect of other medication staff volunteer to.
- An individual Healthcare Plan (MED3) will be filled out by the Headteacher. This plan contains your child's medical condition, medical treatment, emergency contacts and staff volunteers. It also contains a clause that indemnifies staff who agree to administer medication.
- If you have any queries about management of your child's medical condition within school, you should contact the Heateacher.

Inhalers

Some pupils carry inhalers for asthma and related illnesses, which they self administer at school. It is necessary that parents of pupils who carry their own medication complete the appropriate form so than an up-to-date record is held for each child carrying medication to school.

Chronic Illnesses

If a pupil suffers from a chronic illness requiring long term medication or where medication may be required in an emergency situation, parents must contact the Headteacher to discuss the situation. Separate guidance detailing arrangements for

dealing with the medical condition requiring essential or emergency treatment has been prepared by the Education Division and will be made available to parents, if required.

It must be stressed that the Qualified First Aider can provide only an emergency first aid service during the school day.