

MELBA COLLEGE MEDICATIONS POLICY

RATIONALE:

Teachers and schools are often asked by parents to administer medication for their children while at school. It is important that such requests are managed in a manner that is appropriate, ensures the safety of students, and fulfils the duty of care of staff.

GUIDELINES:

- To ensure the medications are administered appropriately to students in our care.

IMPLEMENTATION:

- Children who are unwell should not attend school.
- The school nurse will be responsible for administering prescribed medications to children.
- Non-prescribed oral medications (eg: head-ache tablets) will not be administered by school staff.
- All parent requests for the school nurse to administer prescribed medications to their child must be in writing on the form provided and must be supported by specific written instruction from the medical practitioner or pharmacist's including the name of the student, dosage and time to be administered (original medications bottle or container should provide this information).
- All verbal requests for children to be administered prescribed medications whilst at school must be directed to the school nurse, who in turn, will seek a meeting or discussion with parents to confirm details of the request and to outline school staff responsibilities.
- Requests for prescribed medications to be administered by the school 'as needed' will cause the school nurse to seek further written clarification from the parents.
- All student medications must be in the original containers, must be labelled, must have the quantity of tablets confirmed and documented, and must be stored in either the locked office first aid cabinet or office refrigerator, whichever is most appropriate.
- Consistent with our Asthma policy, students who provide the school nurse with written parent permission may carry an asthma inhaler with them.
- Classroom teachers will be informed by the school nurse of prescribed medications for students in their charge, and classroom teachers will release students at prescribed times so that they may visit the school office and receive their medications from the school nurse.
- All completed Medication Request Forms and details relating to students, their prescribed medication, dosage quantities and times of administering will be kept and recorded in a confidential official loose-leaf medications register located in the school office by the school nurse in the presence of, and confirmed by, a second staff member.
- Students involved in school camps or excursions will be discreetly administered prescribed medications by the 'Teacher in Charge' in a manner consistent with the above procedures, with all details recorded on loose-leaf pages from the official medications register. Completed pages will be returned to the official medications register on return of the excursion to school.
- Parents/carers of students that may require injections are requested to meet with the school nurse to discuss the matter.

RELATED POLICIES & LINKS:

- First Aid Policy
- Asthma Policy
- Camps and Tours Policy
- Excursions Policy
- Emergency Management Policy
- <http://www.ambulance.vic.gov.au/>

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