

The Policy on Managing Chronic Illness

St. Fergal's College: Mission Statement

St. Fergal's College is a co-educational school which aims to provide a quality education for all our students in a caring and respectful environment.

We enable students to develop fully a sense of their own unique worth by providing a broadly based curriculum which fosters intellectual, spiritual, moral, emotional and physical growth.

We are committed to promoting good relationships between students, staff, parents and our community.

We aim to create a safe, healthy, learning environment that nurtures self-discipline and encourages our students to take responsibility for their own learning.

We aim to educate our students not only for now, but also for life.

Rationale

This policy outlines the guidelines and procedures to be followed to support students with chronic illness in our school. The Managing Educational Risk for Students with Medical Conditions or Disabilities (IPB) Resource Pack was used in the drafting of this policy.

We acknowledge there is an increased incidence of chronic illness such as asthma, diabetes, epilepsy and anaphylaxis among young people and as a school we are eager to fulfil our duty of care to all our students to ensure their full participation in all aspects of school life.

Aims and Objectives

- To provide a safe and secure school environment for students to manage chronic illness.
- To provide the support required to facilitate the student with chronic illness to participate in all areas of school life. The support provided will be subject to available school resources.
- To provide training and support for staff members who volunteer to administer emergency medicine.
- To establish clear procedures in the event of emergency medication being required by a student managing chronic illness.
- To create awareness among the general student body, through the SPHE Curriculum, of chronic illness and how these illnesses can be managed.

Managing Chronic Illness in School - Duties and Responsibilities

- It is the duty of the student and his/her parent to inform the school on enrolment if the student suffers from a chronic illness...
- Parents will meet with the Principal and Year Head to discuss the nature of the illness and what supports are needed...

- Parents will provide the school with the relevant details of the illness and required treatment in the event of an emergency...
- A Healthcare Plan should detail the nature of the student's illness...
- The school will make every reasonable effort to provide the required support within the constraints of school resources...
- The student and parents/guardian will seek in writing the permission of the Board of Management for emergency medicine to be administered by teachers who volunteer to do so...
- Parents will be informed of the Board's decision and must provide paperwork as required...
- If the student is over 16 he/she must also sign a consent form...
- Parents must also give written consent...
- Teachers and other staff are not contractually obliged to administer medicine and do so on a voluntary basis...
- Teachers who volunteer and the Board of Management will be indemnified...
- Training will be provided for staff who agree to administer medicine...
- It is school policy to expect capable and responsible students to administer their own medication...
- The school may provide a private area for students to administer their medicine...

Note: Non-prescription medicine will not be stored in school...

Emergency Plan

- Staff will be informed at the beginning of the school year of the name of each student suffering from chronic illness who may need emergency medicine administered...

In the event that a student suffering from chronic illness displays symptoms which are identified as life threatening, the following procedure should be followed:

1. The class teacher will send a responsible student to inform the Principal/Deputy Principal...
 2. The class teacher must stay with the ill student and ensure safety.
 3. Good practice: send for the nearest nominated teacher if leadership is unavailable.
 4. This ensures the relevant emergency medication is acquired quickly.
- Every reasonable effort will be made to maintain the privacy of the student.
 - In the event of emergency medicine being administered both a male and female adult should be present if possible.

Communication of Policy and Procedure

- Students will be involved in their own Healthcare Plan and informed of procedures...
- They will be fully aware of the Emergency Plan...

- Special arrangements (e.g. eating/drinking during class) will be outlined in the diary...
- Parents' contact numbers will be clearly visible...
- Policy available on enrolment day...
- Policy copies provided as needed...
- Copies for staff on server and Staff Handbook...
- All staff, including substitutes, will be informed...
- Awareness created among students through SPHE classes.

Staff Training

- Staff who volunteer to administer emergency medication will receive training...
- All training signed off by healthcare professionals...
- Whole staff training opportunities will be provided at First Aid training days.

Storage and Disposal of Medicines

- Students are responsible for their own medicines...
- Medicines must be in original pharmacy containers...
- If fridge storage is needed, arrangements must be made by parents...
- Emergency medicines stored in a secure staffroom area...
- Parents ensure medicines are in date...
- End of school year: medicines must be removed and replaced...
- Parents must provide sharps boxes and dispose of them responsibly.

Extra-Curricular Activities / School Trips

- The school will make every reasonable effort to facilitate participation of students with chronic conditions in extra-curricular activities...
- It is the responsibility of the student to ensure they have the required medication...
- A risk assessment will be made when considering school trips.

Record Keeping

- All information relating to students with chronic conditions will be kept securely...
- Confidential information will be respected...
- Healthcare and Emergency Plans stored securely...
- General info on chronic illnesses available...
- Teachers have access to necessary information...
- In the event emergency medicine is administered, it will be recorded.

This policy will be reviewed every year and/or as the need arises.

Policy adopted by the Board of Management at a meeting on November 30th 2015.