Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School

First Aid and Medication Policy

Rationale:
At Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School we believe the school requires clear guidelines regarding the application of:

- First aid to students, staff, parents and other incidents at the school requiring assistance relating to the health of individuals
- The administering of medications required due to:
  - ongoing medical conditions such as asthma and epilepsy;
  - allergies caused by insect bites and/or chemical reactions, food allergies etc.;
  - short term illness required by students resuming school however needing to complete a course of medication;
  - non-prescription medications due to unexpected illness.

Aims:
At Our Lady Help of Christians:

- The school, attempts to have at its disposal, all relevant medical information on staff and students, so that incidents of a foreseeable change in medical conditions, can be planned for and acted upon in an informed manner by trained first aid staff;
- students who have medical conditions, requiring some ongoing orally administered medication at school, can participate in school activities;
- the school is a safe workplace for students, staff, school community members and visitors alike and has defined areas for the safe storage of medications as well as set procedure to cope with accidents and emergencies;
- the teaching staff have at their disposal, details regarding the appropriate first aid to be administered for common medical conditions such as asthma, anaphylaxis reactions, epilepsy and diabetes.

Implementation:
That all staff are made aware of students in the school with:

- existing medical conditions such as anaphylaxis, asthma and epilepsy, diabetes, allergic reactions and the appropriate treatment if these medical conditions arise;
- That all staff are aware of procedures for the administering of prescription and non prescription medications to students at school;
- That all staff are made aware of students whom are immune deficient as a result of medical treatment and/or congenital disease;
- That all staff are made aware of procedures for treating students, and other individuals who may require first aid while at school or involved in a school sanctioned activities (i.e. excursions, camps);
- That the school has an appropriate number of staff who have "Level 2 First Aid in the Workplace" qualifications;
- That medications for specific students and school medications be stored and labelled with a photo in an area restricting access to students.
- That Epipens/Anapens for children with anaphylaxis are stored in the sickbay and in the classroom in a teacher’s top drawer.
Student Records

- When students are enrolled at the school, parents are required to complete a medical details section of the enrolment form and provide an immunization certificate. When a child has a medical condition, the parents are requested to also include any emergency treatment that may be needed.

- Parents are advised annually (February) through a new form (Confidential Family Information) of the need to update medical records and emergency contact details. This Confidential Family Information form is sent home annually to be updated.

- Students with known medical conditions are required to have the parent and doctor complete either a Student Medical Condition Management Plan or a School Asthma Management Plan. These forms detail a description of the condition, symptoms of deterioration of the condition, usual medical treatment needed at school, medical treatment if the condition deteriorates and the name and address of emergency contacts and the student's doctor. They include a current student photo;

- Copies of School Medical Condition Management Plans are to be housed, within each classroom, in the First Aid Room and in the Casual Relief Teacher folders. The school office scans Management Plans to the student’s records, kept on line.

- A photo of each child with a condition that may require specific treatment is displayed in the first aid room with a description of the treatment.

- Parents have a responsibility to notify the school if their child is diagnosed with a contagious illness. The school will then notify the parents via the school newsletter or a letter to parents from the grade.

- Staff members are encouraged to record on their personal files any relevant conditions, which can be accessed by the Principal in strictest confidence.

Student Use of Medication

Our Lady Help of Christians discourages the administration of temporary medication during school time where it can be avoided. If there are instances where medication must be given during school time then:

- Children requiring medication must bring a signed and dated medication consent form from their parent.
- Medication containers must be clearly marked with:
  1. student’s name;
  2. the name of the drug;
  3. the dosage required and its frequency;
  4. the times that it needs to be administered;

- If medication is brought to school, it must be given to the classroom teacher who will send the medication and form from the parent to the office.
- Medication will be housed in the office or the refrigerator in the staff room.
- Office staff is to record any medications administered on a Medication Register.
- Medication forms are to be returned to the classroom teacher at the end of the day or days of administration to be stored with the letters of absence.
- All classroom teachers should make themselves aware of the medical conditions of their students and medications taken by the child.
- Students requiring long term administration of drugs will hopefully be trained to administer their own medication with staff supervision. When this is the case, the medication will be kept in the teacher’s desk or in the first aid room.
- Children trained in their use may keep asthmatic reliever sprays (eg Ventolin, Respolin) with them. This practice must have parent/doctor endorsement via the School Asthma Management Plan.
• Additional asthmatic reliever sprays (Ventolin) and spacers are to be stored in the first aid room. These are to be used by asthmatic students having breathing difficulties if they do not have their own medication. The school's canister and spacer must be sterilized after every use.
• In an emergency and in the absence of a student's Asthma Management Plan the Emergency Action Plan as recommended by Asthma Victoria will be followed. A poster detailing this plan is displayed in the first aid room.
• Children requiring a nebulizer must follow the procedure for the administration of medications and have it administered by office staff in the first aid room.
• Paracetamol will not be distributed to students without the written consent of the parent/guardian and it must be supplied by the parent. Any issuing to students must be recorded in the Medication Register.

First Aid
• Staff rostered onto sick bay duty are required to have a current Level 2 First Aid Certificate. This must be updated every three years.
• All teachers in schools are now mandated to have anaphylaxis training every three years
• Staff members are required to record all first aid administered to students, staff and parents in the First Aid Register housed in the first aid room. Those of a major nature are to be recorded in the C.C.I. Accident Book, housed in the Principal's office.
• First aid supplies and stocks are to be housed in the first aid room. Surplus stock is kept in the cupboards along the corridor next to the office.
• Portable first aid kits, to be used on excursions, are to be kept in the first aid room. The teacher using any supplies from these kits is to inform the First Aid Co-ordinator about the need to replenish the first aid bag
• Four first aid kits for use by the staff at recess and lunch times are housed in the staff room.
• First aid supplies are to be regularly checked and maintained by the First Aid Co-ordinator.
• When going on an excursion the teacher in charge of a group of children is to take the General Consent forms with them.

Disposal of Syringes
• All children are to be trained annually in the action to take if they find a syringe.
• The procedure is as follows:
  1. Where possible an older child is to "guard" the syringe while another child goes to notify a staff member
  2. A staff member is to collect the syringe using gloves and tongs.
  3. It is to be placed in the SHARPS DISPOSAL UNIT, which is kept in the Sick bay

Evaluation:
This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s review cycle, or as changes may arise due to changes of procedures.

This policy was last ratified by OLHC School Staff Term 2 2015