

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION



Help for non-English speakers

If you require assistance with understanding this policy, please do not hesitate to contact the College and someone will organise a multicultural aide or the relevant person to assist you.

PURPOSE

Sometimes students may have a medical condition that requires them to take medication at College or during College activities like excursion or camps.

To explain to parents/carers, students and staff the processes Mount Ridley P-12 College will follow to safely manage the provision of medication to students while at College or College activities, including camps and excursions.

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

POLICY

Implementation

If a student requires medication, Mount Ridley P-12 College encourages parents to arrange for the medication to be taken outside of College hours. However, Mount Ridley P-12 College understands that students may need to take medication at College or College activities. To support students to do so safely, Mount Ridley P-12 College will follow the procedures set out in this policy.

Authority to administer

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

- Parents/carers will need to arrange for the student's treating medical/health practitioner to provide written advice to the College 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; and
 - 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 Mount Ridley P-12 College for a Medication Authority Form.

Administering medication

Any medication brought to College 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 College is within its expiry date. If College staff become aware that the medication a student has at College 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 College or a College 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.
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, release the student from class to obtain their 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.

Storing medication

The principal (or their nominee) will put in place arrangements so that medication is stored:

- securely to minimise risk to others
- in a place only accessible by staff who are responsible for administering the medication
- away from a classroom (unless quick access is required)

- away from first aid kits
- according to packet instructions, particularly in relation to temperature.

For most students, Mount Ridley P-12 College will store student medication in the First Aid room or Mini School Office.

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 might be 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

Mount Ridley P-12 College will not:

- in accordance with Department of Education and Training policy, store or administer analgesics 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 College in case of an allergic reaction. This should be done under the supervision of the student's parents, carers or health practitioner
- allow use of medication by anyone other than the prescribed student except in a life-threatening emergency, for example if a student is having an asthma attack and their own puffer is not readily available.

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 College in light of the incident.

In the case of an emergency, College 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 College's website
- Included in staff induction processes
- Referred to during enrolments
- Regularly referred to in our College's newsletter
- Made available in hard copy from our College administration upon request

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Please see Mount Ridley P-12 College's other related policies, including *First Aid*, *Asthma*, *Anaphylaxis*, *Medication Administration Log*, *Medication Authority Form*.

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	September 13 th 2022
Approved by	College Council
Next scheduled review date	2025