



ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION POLICY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand this policy, please contact Tony Bellette at tony.bellette@education.vic.gov.au.

PURPOSE

To explain to families, students and staff the processes Blackwood will follow to safely manage the provision of medication to students while undertaking a Program at Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre.

SCOPE

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

POLICY

If a student requires medication, Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre encourages parents to arrange for the medication to be taken outside of school hours. However, as a school we understand that students may need to take medication at school or school activities. To support students to do so safely, Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre will follow the procedures set out in this policy.

BLACKWOOD SPECIAL SCHOOLS OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE

1015 Greendale - Trentham Road,
Blackwood, Victoria 3458, Australia

Campus of Frankston Special Development School
Member of Residential Outdoor Schools Association (ROSA)

Post: Post Office, Blackwood, Victoria 3458, Australia

Phone: 03 5368 6768

Email: blackwood.specialschools.oec@education.vic.gov.au

Website: blackwoodssoec.vic.edu.au



Authority to administer

If a student needs to take medication while at Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre:

- Parents/carers will need to arrange for the student's treating medical/health practitioner to provide written advice to the school 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
 - 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 base school 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 base school 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).
- If the base school principal approves and receives a completed Medication Authority form from a student's parents/carers this must be directly explained to and accepted by the Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre Campus Principal.

Parents/carers can contact the front office at their child's school for a Medication Authority Form.

Administering medication

Any medication brought to school by a student needs to be clearly labelled with:

- the student's name
- the dosage required
- the time the medication needs to be administered
- arrives at the school in the prescribed medication box with dosage label attached

Parents/carers need to ensure that the medication a student has at school is within its expiry date. If school staff become aware that the medication a student has at school 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 school or a school activity, the base school principal (or their nominee) will ensure that:

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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:
 - must be 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 base school principal may consult with families and consider advice from the student's medical/health practitioner to determine whether to allow a student to self-administer their medication. Students at Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre must only self-administer under the supervision of a staff member.

If the base school principal decides to allow a student to self-administer their medication, the base school 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.

If the base school principal decides to allow a student to self-administer their medication, the base school principal needs to communicate this decision to the Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre Campus Principal.

Storing medication

The Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre Campus Principal 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 in which case they must be stored securely & appropriately)
- away from first aid kits
- according to packet instructions, particularly in relation to temperature.

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In each accommodation site, Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre makes available a locked cupboard and fridge for the storage of medication. The base school principal may decide, in consultation with families and/or on the advice of a student's treating medical/health practitioner:

- 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
- if permitted by the base school principal, this decision will be communicated to the Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre Campus Principal

Warning

Blackwood 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 school in case of an allergic reaction. This should be done under the supervision of the student's family member 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 school in light of the incident.

In the case of an emergency, school staff may call Triple Zero "000" for an ambulance at any time.

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COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following:

- Included in the weekly Visiting Staff briefing
- Included in staff induction processes
- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in our staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at staff meetings as required
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

The Department's Policy and Advisory Library (PAL):

- [Medication Policy](#)
- [First Aid for Students and Staff Policy](#)

Our School policies and documents:

- *First Aid,*
- *Health Care Needs,*
- *Medication Authority Form,*
- *Medication Administration Log*

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	May 2024
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	May 2027

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