

Loreto College Cavan



Potentially Life Threatening and Chronic Medical Conditions Policy

INTRODUCTION

The policy has been drawn up for the protection of students in our care and of school staff. The Board of Management recognises parents as the primary carers of their daughters and that the school and its staff have a duty of care to all students. The Board will uphold this duty in so far as is reasonable and practicable. The Board (and its appointees) requires the full co-operation of parents and guardians.

This policy is underpinned by the following:

- Legislation:
 - Education Act (1998)
 - Equal status Act (2000)
 - Education of Persons with Special Needs Act (2004)
- The Education Philosophy of Loreto Schools (2001)
- Equality Policy
- Admissions Policy
- Health and Safety Statement

SCOPE OF THE POLICY

The Policy addresses the management of chronic life threatening conditions and the administration of medicines or treatment where appropriate. Examples of such conditions are:

- Asthma
- Diabetes
- Epilepsy
- Chronic Allergies including Susceptibility to Anaphylactic Reaction
- Seizures

This list is not exhaustive.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS

All parents/guardians must complete a Student Record Form once their daughter has been enrolled in the school. Parents/guardians of students with conditions which come under the terms of this policy are required to notify the school either at the time of enrolment or at any time during the student's life at the school should she develop such a condition. Parents/guardians will be required to complete an Indemnity Form in conjunction with the Medical Form. It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to update the Medical Form as appropriate and at least once yearly. They may do so by contacting the main office. It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to provide:

- Appropriate medication and instruction for their daughter on the administration of that medicine.
- Appropriate food/drink in the case of special dietary requirements.

Parents may be requested to come into the school to administer medication.

RESPONSIBILITY OF SCHOOL MANAGEMENT

Storage of Medicines

Medicines will be stored in the school office and/or as agreed between parents/guardians and the school. Medicines may be stored by a student on her person, in her school bag or her locker in cases where immediate access to them is vital. Where storage of medicines by a student poses a potential threat to the health and safety of others, alternative storage arrangements may be made as agreed with the student, her parents/guardians and the school. In cases where an epinephrine pen may be required such medication will be stored in two locations.

Administration of Medicines

The administration of prescribed medicines by staff is done on a voluntary basis. No member of staff is compelled to administer medicines to students. However, every reasonable effort will be made by school management to ensure the medicine will be administered by someone in authority in cases where the sufferer is unable to administer the medicine herself. In as far as is practicable, all staff will be made aware of the procedure for administering the medicines so that they may do so in cases where a delay in administration of same would pose a threat to the life of a student. A number of staff may volunteer to administer medicines in an emergency.

REVIEW OF POLICY

This policy will be reviewed from time to time with a view to monitoring the efficacy of the procedures.

Ratified by the Board of Management