



Glenroy Specialist School

Administration of Medication Policy



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Glenroy Specialist School on 03 9304 2263.

PURPOSE

To explain to parents/carers, students and staff the processes Glenroy Specialist School follows to safely manage the provision of medication to students while at school or school activities, including camps and excursions.

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 complex medical care needs.

POLICY

If a student requires medication, Glenroy Specialist School encourages parents/carers to arrange for the medication to be taken outside of school hours. However, Glenroy Specialist School understands that students may need to take medication at school or school activities. To support students to do so safely, Glenroy Specialist School follows the procedures set out in this policy.

Authority to administer medication

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

- Parents/carers need 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.
- Parents/carers must arrange for written advice to be provided in a Medication Authority Form except for:
 - asthma medication – covered in the Asthma Action Plan
 - anaphylaxis medication – covered in the ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis
 - epilepsy emergency medication – covered in the Epilepsy Emergency Medication Plan.

If a medication is prescribed, or given every day, parents/carers must provide written evidence from the student's medical/health practitioner that it is needed. Acceptable written evidence includes:

- the Medication Authority Form signed by the prescribing health practitioner; or
- a signed letter from the prescribing health practitioner (for example, GP or specialist letter or hospital discharge letter); or
- a completed and signed action or management plan from the prescribing health practitioner.
- The School Nurse 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 Glenroy Specialist School on 03 9304 2263 or email glenroy.ss@education.vic.gov.au 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.

Parents/carers must 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 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.
If the School Nurse is absent, two staff members will supervise the administration of medication.

Self-administration

In some cases it may be appropriate for students to self-administer their medication. The School Nurse 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 School Nurse decides to allow a student to self-administer their medication, the Nurse 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. This is preferably recorded in or attached to the Medication Authority Form. Note:

- this is not required for students with asthma or anaphylaxis as this is covered under the student's ASCIA Action Plan or Asthma Action Plan.
- Glenroy Specialist School will not permit a student to carry or self-administer a controlled medication or benzodiazepine at school, such as dexamphetamine or methylphenidate (Concerta, Ritalin). Note: it is the responsibility of parents/carers to notify the school if a medication is controlled.

Storing medication

The School Nurse has put in place arrangements to ensure 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, Glenroy Specialist School will store student medication in the nurses' station.

The Nurse 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

Glenroy Specialist School does not:

- in accordance with department 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 parents, carers or health practitioner
- administer as-needed medication for acute behavioural disturbance as a form of chemical restraint
- allow the 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.

COMMUNICATION

This policy is communicated through our:

- School website (publicly accessible)
- Usual school community communication platform – Xuno
- Staff induction materials

This policy is also communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Enrolment pack
- Annual communication to school community
- Staff briefing/meeting - as required
- Included in transition packs
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

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

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

Our school policies and documents:

- *Asthma Policy*
- *Anaphylaxis Policy*
- *First Aid Policy*
- *Guideline for managing medications*
- *Health Care Needs Policy*
- *Medication Authority Form*
- *Medication Administration Log*
- *Restraint and Seclusion*

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL /

Policy last reviewed	18/09/2026
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	18/09/2030