



## PERRYFIELDS INFANT SCHOOL

### MEDICINES IN SCHOOL

We believe that young children who are sick or in pain should be at home. We will contact you if your child is feeling ill so that you can collect them as soon as possible. If your child is ill during the night, please keep them at home for 48 hours after the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea. I am sure you will appreciate how quickly germs spread amongst young children (and staff), so please err on the side of caution.

#### ASTHMATIC CHILDREN

The local authority advises that asthmatic children should keep their own inhalers with them. **However**, we do not think that infant children should have this responsibility because:

They might lose them.

Other children could use an inhaler that is not prescribed for them.

Hopefully, those with asthma do inhale from a “preventer” each morning. We then like to keep an instant inhaler for them in case of immediate need. **If you leave one in the office, please ensure it is clearly named and that you replace it regularly.** In case of emergencies the school has an ‘emergency inhaler’ which children can access if parental written consent has been received.

#### ANAPHYLACTIC SHOCK

Anaphylaxis is a dangerous type of allergic reaction which is most likely to be caused by particular foods, insect bites or medicines. Severe reactions could involve breathing difficulty, coughing and/or wheezing, loss of colour and loss of consciousness. We would call 999 and tell the operator that we suspect the child has anaphylaxis. If the child has already been prescribed an adrenaline injection then the named EpiPen or injection device for the child will be correctly used. Children’s EpiPens are stored safely in the office and taken on all external trips. Staff are trained to make sure they know the correct way to use it in advance of an emergency. Staff are made aware of which children have severe allergic reactions. **If you leave one in the office, please ensure it is clearly named and that you replace it regularly and that it is kept in date.**

All explanations of children’s illnesses, dietary needs or other problems need to be in writing. Verbal messages are unacceptable.

School staff are not allowed to administer medicine of any kind. If your child is prescribed a course of antibiotics to be administered 3 times a day – the guidelines from the School Medical Officer is that doses may be given

1. Before school.

2. After school.
3. At bedtime.

However, if 4 doses need to be administered during the day, parents (or their nominated representative) may come to school at lunchtime to administer the medicine themselves. A record of this will be kept in the school office.

You may find it useful to look at the 'Infection Control' document and the 'A parent's guide to common childhood illnesses' on our website [www.perryfieldsinfantschool.org.uk](http://www.perryfieldsinfantschool.org.uk) under the Parent Information tab.

<http://middlessexccg.nhs.uk/your-health-services/your-health/childhood-illnesses>