

Frequently Asked Questions about Medical Needs

1. How do we know about a student's medical needs?

Parents must login to Edulink at the start of the year and then to keep us updated of any changes. If you wish to check that our information is up to date please login to Edulink in the first instance, call the Medical Needs Officer or your Year Inclusion Manager. It is vital that you give us this information if we are to help the student in the case of an emergency. We do get information from primary schools and other sources but it is the family's responsibility to update us. Please do not assume that information has been provided by other parties. If we do not know, we may not be able to give correct help in an emergency.

2. How do we contact you in the event of a problem?

We rely heavily on you to ensure we have a complete list of contact telephone numbers for everyone with parental responsibility. This should include home landlines, mobiles and work contacts and wherever possible a grandparent or neighbour. In the case of a serious emergency we call 999 first but we also telephone you as soon as possible. We struggle to do this if your contact numbers are not up to date. You can login to Edulink and update your contact details that way.

3. How do we support students with medical needs?

We have a Medical Needs Officer on duty every day and many staff who are trained first aiders. School nurses visit us by appointment and drop – in. Students who feel unwell during lessons should speak to their teachers and the Medical Needs Officer/First Aider will assess. If the student feels unwell out of lesson he/she reports to: the medical room, reception or Year Inclusion Manager. We do not give out medication unless it is agreed with you in advance. Please remember that school staff are not doctors or paramedics.

4. What do we do in an emergency?

If a student is seriously affected through a known condition or a sudden collapse or serious injury we phone 999 first. The Medical Needs Officer and a first aider go to the scene. We then phone the family using the contacts you have given us. We make sure an adult stays with the student until the paramedic or ambulance arrives. We hope that parents can get to school in time to go with the ambulance but if not, we send a member of staff with the student/Ambulance.

5. What happens when we make a 999 call?

We are asked questions about the student and the visible signs of the problem. 999 then prioritises the call on a scale from life threatening to non-urgent. The timescale of their response depends on that assessment. Within the limits of our skills we continue to support the student until the paramedic/ambulance arrives.

6. Do we ever call parents before 999?

We know from experience that some injury cases will not be prioritised as emergencies. If we judge that the student can be safely moved (e.g. broken arm, eye problem etc) we will call you first. If you can respond quickly, usually within the hour, we will look after the students until you arrive. If you can't respond quickly we will call 999 to gain their assessment of the injury/illness.

7. How do we respond to students who have an asthma attack?

We have specific guidelines for this as follows: Encourage the student to sit up and lean slightly forward. Use the blue inhaler which asthma sufferers carry (2 puffs). Loosen tight clothing, give emotional support. Continue to use inhaler 2 puffs every 2 minutes (up to 10 puffs). Make sure an adult stays with the student to monitor the situation. Most people know how to treat themselves, so always ask 'what do you normally do' and try to follow that.

CALL 999 IF NO IMPROVEMENT AFTER 5 - 10 MINS

OR IF LIPS GO BLUE

OR IF STUDENT IS TOO BREATHLESS OR EXHAUSTED TO TALK

OR IF YOU HAVE ANY DOUBTS

Although it is important to let family know as soon as possible, the decision on calling 999 should not be left until the parent is contacted if the pattern of events follows the sequence in bold type. It is the family's responsibility to ensure that the student has an inhaler with him/her. We encourage students to keep a spare inhaler in the Main Office.

8. Do you have staff training on such matters?

Yes. All staff have Medical Needs training on Asthma, Anaphylaxis, Diabetes and Epilepsy.

9. What do you recommend when the weather is warm?

During the warmer months we advise that students apply suncream before they come into school. If students wish to bring suncream in to apply themselves please make sure it is allergy/nut free. Consider bringing a cap for outside activities

10. How can I find out more about what you do in medical situations?

If you are thinking specifically of your own child, please email or phone the Medical Needs Officer or your head of year. If you have a more general observation or question, please email: Megan.rothwell@wernethschool.com and flag as '**Medical**'.