

22nd March 2023

Re: Medical Room and Medicines

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to notify you of changes being made in school to maximise the in-class support offered to students and the support we need from our families moving forward in order to better manage student health in school.

Medical Room

Broadgreen has long been served by a fantastic medical provision, as the parents and carers of our community can attest. All schools are required to have a space for medical exams and treating pupils with long-term conditions or emergency first aid, when needed. Over time, this provision has provided constant care to our pupils, however, our resource needs and student population have changed. We no longer offer constant treatment. Instead, students in need of more personalised care visit the medical room when needed or students are taken there when they require first aid. This means that at times staff, who could be in classrooms supporting learning are occupied in the medical room unnecessarily.

Therefore, from Monday 27th March, the medical room will be closed at all times to students during the school day. When the medical room has closed, students will not be able to self-direct there. The medical room will only be opened when a student is taken there for care and support by staff.

Currently, students often visit the medical room when they feel sick. Our aim is to support families and therefore, when parents and carers have assessed their child's need and decided that they are well enough to attend school, Dixons Broadgreen Academy will support you. We do this best by supporting your decision for the student to remain in school, in lessons, learning. If a student feels they need medical attention, their need will be assessed in class, calling on a first aider if required. If deemed necessary by the assessing staff, as now, families will be contacted to discuss further support if needed.

Please support us in this process, by making sure that your child understands that this means being in class is their priority; that they should attend all lessons when feeling unwell so that we can guarantee that they will be supervised by teaching staff to support them at a time when they could need emergency care. In addition, we are not medical professionals, but educational ones. We do not have the medical means to solve the discomfort everyday ailments cause, such as colds and headaches. If a student presents with these symptoms, and you have sent them to school, we will support you by supporting this decision.

Medicines

Schools are not permitted to administer medicines (prescription or non-prescription) without parental consent. To ensure that parents have full ability to enact that right, we are also moving to online parental consent. Parents can already provide consent for non-prescription medication support (e.g. paracetamol) through our school app, MCAS. **From Monday 27th March, only consent given through the app for non-prescription medication will be followed.** Written consent, including in the student planner, will no longer be accepted. If you have not yet logged in to our app, please contact your child's HOY or main reception for support.

We recognise that students will sometimes need access to medicines during the school day. Wherever possible, families should ensure that medication is provided at home before or after school. Those with long-term conditions are supported by an Individual Healthcare Plan that supports those needs, if a student requires one of these please contact your child's Head of Year in the first instance.



When a student needs medicines for a short-term period such as antibiotics, you should continue to communicate this in writing by completing a **medication consent form** at the school reception.

Please be aware, we do not have the resources to provide medication to students. **We do not have a supply of any non-prescription medication, including paracetamol.** Any medicines a student requires, must be supplied by the family. Students cannot carry medication in school. Medicines must be brought to staff in Mountain Rescue for safe storage and management.

Should you have any questions in relation to this change, please contact school at info@dixonsba.com.

Yours sincerely,



Mr A Samy
Senior Vice Principal

