



ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION POLICY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the General Office.

PURPOSE

To explain to parents/carers, students and staff the processes Mount Waverley Secondary College will follow 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, Mount Waverley Secondary College encourages parents to arrange for the medication to be taken outside of school hours. However, Mount Waverley Secondary College understands that students may need to take medication at school or school activities. To support students to do so safely, Mount Waverley Secondary College will follow the procedures set out in this policy.

Permission to administer medication

Mount Waverley Secondary College recognises that our students may become unwell during the day, necessitating administration of medication to relieve their symptoms, allow them to continue with their class or enable them to travel home safely.

Mount Waverley Secondary College employs Division 1 Registered Nurses as school nurses. Division 1 Registered Nurses are permitted to administer schedule 2 medications. These types of medications are available from supermarkets and pharmacies.

At the commencement of the school year parents are requested to consent to the administration of paracetamol and antihistamine. This consent is retained at the college and able to be viewed through the student management system CASES and on a google spreadsheet.



The following medication are kept at Mount Waverley Secondary College in the First Aid Office and dispensed under the authority of the school nurse as follows:

Brand Name	Generic Name	Recommended Dosage	Indication for Administration
Panadol	paracetamol	1-2 500mg tablets 4 hourly Maximum 8 tablets in 24 hrs	Pain
Zyrtec	cetirizine hydrochloride	1 tablet every 24 hrs	Allergic conditions eg. Hayfever
Vicks Vapodrops Butter Menthols	menthol	1 lozenge (7mg) every 2 hrs	Sore throat Blocked nose

Authority to administer medication

If a student needs to take **other** 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:
 - general first aid medication
 - 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
- prescribed and dispensed medication in its original container or packaging with a current and original label (pharmacy label) that is stored at school; or
- original label (pharmacy label) directly sighted and photocopied by school staff; 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.

If advice cannot be provided by a student's medical/health practitioner, the Principal (or their nominee) may agree that written authority can be provided by, or the Medication Authority Form can be completed by a student's parents/carers.



- The Principal 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).

The Medication Authority Form is available on the college's website, or Parents/carers can contact the General Office on either campus for a copy.

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 need to 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.
3. Where possible, two staff members will supervise the administration of medication.
4. The teacher in charge of a student at the time their medication is required:
 - is informed that the student needs to receive their medication
 - if necessary, release the student from class to obtain their medication.

Self-administration

In some cases it may be appropriate for students to self-administer their medication. The Principal 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 Principal decides to allow a student to self-administer their medication, the Principal 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.
- Mount Waverley Secondary College 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 Principal (or their nominee) will put in place arrangements so 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, Mount Waverley Secondary College will store student medication in the First Aid Office at each campus.

The Principal may decide, in consultation with parents/carers and/or on the advice of a student's treating medical/health practitioner:

- 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

Mount Waverley Secondary College will not:

- in accordance with Department of Education 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 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 will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Enrolment pack
- Parent information night
- Included in transition packs
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request
- Mount Waverley Secondary College website
- Annual communication to school community through Compass
- Staff induction materials when required

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

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

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

Mount Waverley Secondary College policies and documents:

- First Aid
- Health Care Needs
- Medication Authority Form

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	May 2026
Approved by	College Principal and School Council
Next scheduled review date	May 2030