



27th October 2023

Dear Families,

I am writing to you regarding changes to our procedures around supporting pupils at school with medical conditions.

We will no longer store medication at school for any student unless they have a medical healthcare plan and storage of medication has specifically been requested by parents as part of this plan. In practice this means we will no longer store paracetamol, ibuprofen or other medication for students. We are making this change to ensure that our procedures are in line with DfE guidance which states that schools should not be storing 'over the counter' medication for students and should only store prescribed medication relating to an individual healthcare plan.

The DfE guidance sets out very clearly that where possible '*children who are competent should be encouraged to take responsibility for managing their own medicines and procedures... and wherever possible, children should be allowed to carry their own medicines and relevant devices*' It is important to note that the DfE guidance also states that '*a child who has been prescribed a controlled drug may legally have it in their possession if they are competent to do so, but passing it to another child is an offense*' Our default position as a secondary school is that given the students age they are competent to carry their own medicines and relevant devices. If your child has an individual healthcare plan and you believe it is not appropriate for them to self-manage their own medication going forward we would ask that you put this in writing to the school by emailing Ms Chandler schandler@yateacademy.co.uk by Friday 3rd November.

In cases where a child has a significant long term health condition such as diabetes we would expect to have an individual healthcare plan already agreed in place and agreed with parents. If your child has a significant long term health condition that requires us as a school to store prescribed medication and there is not already an individual healthcare plan in place please contact Ms Chandler schandler@yateacademy.co.uk to arrange an appointment to discuss this further.

If your child currently has medication kept at school please could I ask that you come in and collect this from reception before Friday 3rd November. After Friday 3rd November any medication remaining for students without an individual healthcare plan will be disposed of.

If you have any questions regarding this please do email info@yateacademy.co.uk and we will get back to you after the half term break.

Yours sincerely
James Harding-Mbogo
Deputy Headteacher