



Sidcot  
Live Adventurously

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**Medical Policy**

**Policy Number: 4.1**

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## 1. Aims

In keeping with the Quaker ethos and philosophy and our obligations as a responsible educational establishment we seek at all times to maintain the general good health of the School population at Sidcot. This encompasses wellbeing of mind, body and spirit, tailoring effective professional practices to suit individual needs.

## 2. Objectives of this Policy

- To provide a high standard of medical care for all students,
- To promote every student's emotional, mental and physical wellbeing;
- To ensure that all staff are aware of the necessary protocols and able to access all relevant emergency information when needed;
- To treat all students as individuals – students will always be fully consulted and informed about their choices and treatment;
- To respect patient confidentiality wherever possible;
- To ensure that safeguarding remains central to our approach and to ensure that we always work in the best interests of every child.
- To provide administration of medication in line with the Royal Pharmaceutical Society and Royal College of Nursing.

## 3. Scope, distribution and definitions

This policy applies to all children receiving education at Sidcot School (EYFS, the Junior School and Senior School (including Sixth Form) and boarders) with specific references as appropriate.

This policy applies wherever staff or volunteers are working with students, even where this is away from the School, for example on an educational visit.

This policy is available on the School website, a hard copy can be provided free of charge from Sidcot School and it may be made available in other formats as requested.

The terms '**child**', '**children**', and '**student**' may be used interchangeably to refer to all those in our care. The term '**young people/persons**' may also be used to refer to students within the Senior School.

The term "**guardian**" refers to educational guardian.

The term "**parent**" refers to all those with parental responsibility for the child.

## 4. Consent to Medical Treatment

By law, students may have the right to consent to, or refuse, medical or dental treatment. This is based on 'competency' as defined below and not the age of the student, although in practice students over the age of 16 years will usually be assessed as 'competent' and asked to consent to their treatment in their own right. Where a student is under the age of 16 years, the practitioner proposing the treatment will assess whether or not the student is 'Gillick competent', that is to say that the student understands the nature of the treatment, as well as the consequences of refusal, and therefore whether they are competent to make their own

decisions. A child will be assessed as “Gillick competent” if he or she has sufficient understanding and intelligence to comprehend fully what is proposed.

Confidentiality will usually be maintained unless there is a safeguarding issue which would put the child or another individual at greater risk of harm. Please refer to section 5 below and the safeguarding policy. However, if a student requires emergency hospital treatment, every effort will be made to obtain the prior consent of a parent and /or guardian. Should this be impossible in the time available, the attending medical practitioner will make a professional judgement and act in the best interests of the student (including decisions on anaesthetic or operation). Ongoing efforts will be made to contact the parent and /or guardian.

## **5. Confidentiality**

We want all our students to feel that they can talk to a member of staff about anything that is concerning them. It is very important that students are confident they will be listened to. In most cases, conversations between young people and staff should remain confidential if this is in accordance with a student's wishes. However, there are limits to this, and there are boundaries to our legal and professional roles and responsibilities.

Allegations of child abuse, whether physical, sexual, emotional or by neglect, cannot by law be kept confidential. As soon as any member of staff realises that a child is making an allegation, they will follow the process outlined in the child protection policy (summarised on the aide memoire on the back of his or her identity card). He/she will remind the student that not all allegations can remain confidential.

Staff will always act in accordance with the safeguarding and child protection policy, which incorporates North Somerset Safeguarding Partnership's procedures. If staff are concerned for a child, they may consult with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or a member of this team, or social care direct if necessary, informing the DSL subsequently. Staff are fully trained in safeguarding procedures and will adhere to the principles set out in the relevant policies. Staff are also trained in the Prevent Duty and are alert to the need to protect children at risk of being drawn into terrorism or being exposed to extremist views.

Except in those situations outlined above; Health Centre staff are bound by their Code of Professional Conduct to maintain professional confidentiality. If the Health Centre staff feel that it is in the best interests of a child (assessed as Gillick competent) to share information with a third party, a student's permission to share will be sought.

It is not a breach of confidentiality for a member of staff to ask an appropriate colleague's advice, as long as both staff understand that the information is confidential. Seeking advice and support when unsure is good practice.

It is recognised as best practice to liaise with parents (and where appropriate, guardians) regarding a student's health concerns wherever possible, and the School Nurses will always encourage students to consent to such communication. Where a student is considered 'Gillick competent' and refuses consent, their wellbeing will be monitored and managed by the School Nurses and School Doctor (for boarders). If a student refuses to allow communication with a parent, but is at risk of significant harm, parents and appropriate agencies may be contacted and the procedure outlined in the safeguarding and child protection policy will be followed.

Information concerning the health or personal circumstances of any student passed on by staff during morning briefing must be treated as confidential. Information will only be shared if it is in the student's best interests to do so, and with the appropriate permissions, or alternatively under the safeguarding procedures. Confidential information will be disseminated on a 'need to know' basis only; each case taken individually and assessed accordingly on its own merits.

Information and concerns expressed between staff and students will not be discussed outside staff areas.

Information received about a student will only be discussed with them, if appropriate, with an agreed staff member.

## **6. Provision of Medical Services**

### 6.1 Information – All Students

- Sidcot School Health Centre provides health promotion, advice and nursing services to support the whole School community;
- Health Centre staff embrace the individual's physical, mental, emotional and social care needs.

The Health Centre is staffed by four NMC registered healthcare professionals (*Nursing and Midwifery Council*).

Before a student enters the School, a medical card is sent to parents/guardians requesting details of past and current medical conditions and treatment, as well as known allergies. The School's Health Centre must receive a completed Medical Card prior to admission. Where appropriate, a consultation regarding any specific health needs will be made.

In addition, every year, parents/guardians must complete the on-line Annual Consent. This is an online submission form, consenting to:

- The School Nurse giving over the counter medication including analgesia, and emergency medication, and accessing emergency medical and dental treatment, in each case if the need arises (in accordance with NMC Administration of Medicines Policy);
- Students taking part in school trips and other activities that take place off school premises; and need First Aid or urgent medical treatment;
- The administration of an emergency asthma inhaler to students with asthma if the need arises - please refer to Asthma policy 4.3

Students should be up to date with routine immunisations. The local health authority provides immunisations for day and boarding students in line with the Department of Health Immunisations schedule for North Somerset.

Boarding students are also offered the annual influenza vaccination (through the Annual Consent) a charge applies for the influenza vaccinations.

Parents/guardians will be contacted when immunisations are due and have the right to accept or decline the immunisation. Nevertheless, where students are 16 years and over, it is ultimately the student's decision whether to receive or decline immunisations and vaccinations.

For further information, this website is helpful: [Vaccinations - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

If a student needs to be taken to hospital, staff will escort/accompany a child taken to hospital by ambulance and stay with the child until a parent arrives (in the case of day students), or until appropriate arrangements can be made with parents/guardians of boarding students.

If a student visits the Health Centre during lesson time, they will be admitted to the Health Centre using our Patient Tracker record keeping software. This will allow teaching and boarding staff to know who is in the health centre and when they are discharged, although this does not inform staff why the student was seeing the School Nurse, unless the student's consent is sought and given. In the event of a safeguarding concern, the Designated Safeguarding Lead or a member of her team will be contacted.

## 6.2 Information - Boarding Students

Boarding students will be registered with the NHS.

Sidcot School Health Centre works closely with the local Doctors' surgery, which provides nominated medical officers (School Doctors). Apart from local boarding students whose parents have requested to maintain registration with their own General Practitioner (GP), all boarding students are registered with the School Doctors for general medical services. The School Doctors and their team run two Doctors' surgeries per week in the School Health Centre, assisted by the School Nurses (For information about our school Doctors please refer to [Appendix 1](#)). As doctors' surgeries are held during the School lunchtime, students will be given an early lunch pass if needed. If a boarder needs to see a Doctor at any other time during surgery opening hours they will be seen at the local Doctors' surgery, or in an emergency the School will arrange a visit on school premises. ([Appendix 2: Protocol for Calling a Doctor – Out of Hours Services](#)).

UK boarding students registered with the School Doctors are asked to be seen as a temporary resident with their home GP if unwell during holidays. If a boarding student sees a family doctor or a specialist when they are away from School, the parents/guardians must inform the School Nurses as soon as possible so that medical records can be updated, and continuity of care maintained.

Once registered with the School Doctors, boarding students will be entitled to free medical care from the school Doctors (GP local services) under the National Health Service (NHS). However, there may be some medication or treatment that will incur a cost and be chargeable to the school bill for students from outside the UK. All hospital care is chargeable unless the correct arrangements are in place to cover healthcare costs.

All overseas students from outside the UK must have a valid Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) with healthcare surcharge paid if applicable. BRP application is made as part of the visa process. Parents may feel they would like their son/daughter to also have private health insurance whilst at Sidcot School, in order to provide additional medical benefits whilst in the UK.

If a student has private health insurance, it is important that it covers all treatment in the UK. With private health insurance you might still be required to pay for any x-rays, medical care or treatment upfront and claim reimbursement from their insurance company.

Students who may require long term, or elective treatment whilst at Sidcot School may be referred to medical services within their home country. If the student has a pre-existing medical condition requiring medication, medical equipment or treatment, parents must provide full information prior to starting Sidcot School, and agree treatment management with the school nursing team. Arrangements for the provision of medication and medical equipment is the responsibility of parents.

If a boarding student becomes unwell they will be assessed by the school nurses, and where further medical intervention or prescribed medication is needed they will be seen by the School Doctor.

As far as possible, we work to keep students with minor ailments in school and boarding, however if a student struggles to cope with the way they are feeling, or their symptoms do not improve over a 48-hour period, it may be agreed with the school nurses and their housemaster/mistress that they require time away from school with parents or guardian, where they can rest and recuperate, parents will be notified if arrangements need to be made for their son/daughter to be looked after outside of school.

Students suffering from a continued high temperature over 38C will be kept in isolation, and parents notified that if the high temperature continues for more than 24hours they will need to rest and recuperate with parents or guardians. There may be times where the decision for a student with a high temperature to rest at parents or guardians is made sooner than 24 hours to support their recovery within a quiet home environment. Sidcot school no longer has testing for Covid 19. Please see NHS guidance [High temperature \(fever\) in children - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

If students contract illnesses such as (but not limited to) Influenza, chickenpox, scarlet fever, whooping cough, they will need to be cared for by parents or guardians without a school isolation period.

**It is important that guardians of overseas students understand their responsibility for looking after students who are not well, providing homely care, rest and recuperation.**

When the Health Centre is closed healthcare is provided by the individual Boarding Houses who can seek support from NHS out of hours' services (please refer to [Appendix 2](#)). Housemaster/mistress' will contact parents and guardians if a student becomes unwell overnight or at weekends and needs to rest and recuperate away from school as per the above guidance.

Routine dental and optical care and ongoing orthodontic treatment is the responsibility of parents/guardians and should be dealt with during school holidays. In an emergency, arrangements will be made for students to be seen by a dentist or optician with parental consent. A cost may be incurred. If emergency orthodontic treatment is needed whilst at school, such as for a broken brace, Weston Orthodontic Centre will carry out repairs by private arrangement.

### 6.3 Information – Day Students

Day students who become unwell during the school day will see the School Nurse, who will assess the health needs of the child and decide on the appropriate care and treatment whilst in school. If a child is not well enough to be in school, parents/guardians will be contacted (or contact made with the emergency contact if parents/guardians not available), and the child collected as soon as possible. Whilst waiting to be collected, a sick child will remain in the Health Centre under the care of the School Nurses, or in the Junior School or EYFS area under the care of Junior School/Early Years' staff, following consultation with the School Nurses.

Students who are unwell must not ring their parents/guardians to collect them without first consulting Health Centre staff. This is a health and safety measure for the protection of the child.

### 6.4 Physical Activity

Students who are well enough to be in school but not well enough to participate in physical activity, such as games lessons or swimming, need to have a note from home (day students) or from the Sidcot School Health Centre at the start of the school day (boarding students).

There may be times when strenuous exercise is not good for a student's current health condition and a 'Try Games Note' recommending light exercise may be given to boarding students.

It is important that wherever possible young people participate in regular physical activity as part of a healthy lifestyle.

### 6.5 Sexual Health

When supporting young people dealing with sexuality, sexual health and wellbeing issues or decisions, Sidcot School will always encourage the young person to talk with their

parents/legal guardians. It is generally felt that this brings about positive outcomes for the young person and their family. However, consent from a parent/guardian is not legally necessary for the prescription of contraception if the young person is assessed competent to make such decisions, parents do not have to be informed. Any competent young person in the United Kingdom has the right to the same duties of care and confidentiality as adults.

A young person is said to be Gillick competent i.e. competent to make their own decisions about their sexuality, sexual health and wellbeing and health if they are capable of fully understanding the nature and possible consequences of any decision or treatment they may undertake. Confidentiality may only be breached if the circumstances outlined under section 5 apply.

It is considered good practice for health professionals, including School Nurses and School Doctors, to apply the criteria commonly known as the Fraser Guidelines when considering the duty of confidentiality in respect of a young person being given contraceptive treatment:

- The young person understands the advice and has sufficient maturity to understand what is involved;
- The doctor or nurse could not persuade the young person to inform their parents, nor to allow the doctor or nurse to inform them;
- The young person would be very likely to begin, or continue having sexual intercourse with or without contraceptive treatment;
- Without contraceptive advice or treatment, the young person's physical or mental health would suffer;
- It would be in the young person's best interests to give such advice or treatment without parental consent.

In the United Kingdom, the laws on sexual offences do not affect the ability of professionals to provide confidential sexual health advice, information or treatment if it is in order to protect the young person from sexually transmitted infections or pregnancy, to protect their physical safety, or to promote their emotional well-being.

'For sexual health to be attained and maintained, the sexual rights of all persons must be respected, protected and fulfilled' (World Health Organisation).

Within Sidcot School, only the local sexual health clinic, the hospital, the student's GP, or School Doctor for boarding students, can assess and agree a prescription for contraception.

For information on sex and relationships education please see school policy 7.3.

## **7. Head Injuries**

Head injuries may vary from minor bumps to potentially life-threatening injuries. The following procedures set out the steps that must be taken in the case of all head injuries.

All students who suffer a bump or blow to the head during term time must be seen by the School Nurse, who will assess and provide appropriate treatment and observation. An accident/incident form must be completed by the member of staff on duty/present at time of injury. The student will be given a head injury advice note to provide to parents/house parents/guardians at the end of the school day.

Students who have a severe head injury, lack of consciousness, or are showing signs concussion must not be moved. The attending staff member must administer first aid treatment whilst the School Nurse is called, and an ambulance must always be called first in an extreme emergency.



Parents/guardians of day students will be informed as soon as possible, and the student will need to be taken home for close observation or taken to hospital according to their ongoing condition. Boarding students will be observed at the School Health Centre or taken to hospital according to their ongoing condition. Boarding House staff and parents/guardians will be informed and kept updated on the student's condition. Where a student's bump to the head results in concussion, the concussion protocol must be followed for future participation in sporting activity regardless of the cause of concussion (see 7.1).

A student who has had a bump/blow to the head must be observed closely even if they appear well, and urgent medical help sought immediately if there is deterioration in their condition.

During school excursions/offsite activities any student who receives a blow/bump to the head, will receive same level of care and support as in school, this will be provided by the first aiders on duty at the time and/or the Centre Manager/event organiser.

Outside of term times parents/guardians must inform the school Health Centre if a child has received a bump/blow to the head and any treatment or advice given.

#### 7.1 Head Injuries: sports / Risk of Concussion

If a head injury has been sustained, through contact sport, the Concussion Protocol will be followed, please see Sidcot School Concussion Protocol.

### **8. Medication**

This part of the policy sets out the protocols for administering medication, whether prescribed or nonprescription (household) within the School. All medication protocols must be followed, and records maintained to ensure that a full audit may be carried out. All boarding staff receive annual training for administering medication, by the school nursing team.

#### 8.1 Non-Prescription Medication

A range of non-prescription medication suitable for children of all ages is kept in the Health Centre. This medication is available for boarders and day students and administered as per instructions, following assessment of symptoms by a School Nurse during Health Centre opening hours (8am – 6pm Monday to Friday).

No students should therefore carry any non-prescription medication in school. Nonprescription medication stock is kept securely in a locked cupboard, in a locked room in the Sidcot School Health Centre.

##### 8.1.1 Non-Prescription Medication Administration Junior School including EYFS.

If a child in the EYFS requires administration of non-prescription medication from home, either on a short- or long-term basis, parents must complete the agreement for the School to hold and administer medication, please refer to 8.2.1.

If children in the EYFS are administered medication from the Sidcot School Health Centre under unforeseen circumstances; the medication will be administered according to the age of the child. Wherever possible the child's current condition will be discussed with a parent prior to giving any medication and parental advice/consent sought. Medication will only be given without first having contact with a parent if the parent is not contactable and if the School Nurse assesses it to be in the child's best interests – for example the administration of paracetamol to lower a temperature. Parents will be contacted as soon as possible, and the child's condition will be closely monitored.

EYFS Medication from home is stored in a locked medicine cabinet or designated locked fridge in the school health centre.

### 8.1.2 Non-Prescription Medication Administration Junior School

If the School Nurse assesses that a Junior School child needs non-prescription medication, wherever possible a parent will be contacted first. If a parent is not contactable and the nurse administers medication, Health Centre staff or the child's class teacher will inform the parent, either by telephone, email or in person when parent collects, that medication has been administered.

### 8.1.3 Non-Prescription Medication: Senior School Day Students

If the School Nurse assesses that a Senior School day student needs non-prescription medication during the school day, a note will be given to the student to take home to their parent (Years 7 – 11). Students 16 years or older are given medication advice and a note if they feel it would help them to remember what they have taken and when. If the student's condition requires the parent to be informed directly, except in a situation where there would be a breach of confidentiality, the School Nurse will contact parents by telephone or email.

### 8.1.4 Non-Prescription Medication: Boarding Students

Boarding students can access non-prescription medication from the Health Centre during opening hours in the same way as day students. Non-prescription medication is also available from Boarding Houses when the Health Centre is closed.

No medication should be administered from a Boarding House during Health Centre opening times without prior agreement.

House Staff record medication given, along with any student health information on the Patient Tracker (boarding house) record keeping software, which links into the individual student's Health Centre records, and provides continuity of care.

Non-prescription medication is kept securely in a locked cupboard, in a locked room in the Boarding Houses.

There may be times when students bring their own non-prescription medication for occasional use. Following assessment by the School Nurse, well labelled UK available non-prescription medicines may be booked into the Boarding House Medical Cabinet and dispensed as per instructions. All non-prescription medication from home must be in date, in its original packaging and administered as per instructions, unless advised otherwise in writing from a medical practitioner.

If a student's own non-prescription medication is taken regularly on the recommendation of a medical practitioner, it must be treated in the same way as prescription medication - please refer to paragraph 8.2.4.

Students are actively encouraged not to bring non-European first aid medication to School. Students who arrive with this medication will have it safely stored in a locked cupboard in the Health Centre for safe keeping. Students may be permitted to take this medication, depending on its nature and if parental consent is received, however no further medication will be administered within a 4-hour time period.

The Boarding House non-prescription stock medication count is monitored and managed through Patient Tracker medical records software, which is managed by the school nurses, and meets the standards for safe storage of health records, and retained in accordance with the retention schedule in the digital safety policy.

Students may hold their own over the counter vitamins and minerals these must be stored in their own locked drawer or cupboard in the Boarding House – they may be retained by the student at the discretion of the nurses. This excludes all body building compounds – these are not to be brought into School.

## 8.2 Prescribed Medication

- The Nursing Team will support students to take their prescription medication during the school day, subject to full information being provided from a parent or guardian for all students under 16 years of age;
- All prescribed medication must be pharmacy labelled and contain name, dosage, time to be given during the school day and any other requirement (such as to be taken on an empty stomach);
- Prescribed medication must only be issued to the student for whom it has been prescribed;
- The parent agreement form for School to hold and administer medication can be completed online through the parents' portal on Firefly.

### 8.2.1 Prescribed Medication EYFS and Junior School

If a child in the EYFS or Junior School requires administration of prescribed medication from home in the short or long term; parents must complete the agreement for School to Hold and Administer Medication Form. The School Nurses will carry out this duty and will receive any appropriate training. The medication administration record will be maintained for each medication administered.

Medication for the EYFS and Junior School children is stored in a locked medicine cabinet or designated locked fridge in the health centre.

Parents of children in EYFS and the Junior School will be informed on the same day, or as soon as reasonably practicable, that medication has been given, dose and time administered

### 8.2.2 Prescribed Medication Senior School Day Students

If a Senior School day student (aged under 16 years) is taking prescription medication from home during the school day, both in the short and long term; the medication needs to be stored at the Sidcot School Health Centre. The student will be encouraged to take responsibility for accessing their prescription medication from the Health Centre at the appropriate times. Where required, students will be reminded to attend the Health Centre for their medication.

Parents will complete agreement for school to hold and administer medication from the Sidcot School Health Centre. Medication administration will be recorded on the individual students Patient Tracker.

Students over 16 years of age are generally assessed as able to manage their own medication. If concern is raised about a student's ability to manage/take care of their medication; other suitable arrangements can be made with the Health Centre.

Special arrangements may be in place for students with long term health needs and disabilities to manage or access their medication as outlined in their individual healthcare plan - please see policy "Supporting students with medical conditions, disabilities."

### 8.2.3 Prescribed Medication: Boarding Students

The School encourages boarding students, who are deemed to be competent to do so, to be actively involved in the planning and delivery of their own prescription medication. Students are encouraged to take responsibility for accessing their prescription medication from the Health Centre during the school day. A medication administration sheet will be completed for any prescribed medication being dispensed from the Health Centre and Boarding House for students under 16 years.

Boarders aged 16 years and over, who are assessed by a School Nurse or School Doctor as sufficiently responsible to keep and administer their own medication following a medication risk assessment, may retain and administer their medication, provided that they keep medication safely stored in a personal locked cupboard within the boarding house. This does

not apply to controlled medication. Boarding House staff will be informed of students holding their own prescribed medication; however, personal medical details may remain confidential if the student so wishes.

Where oral contraception is prescribed by the School Doctor to a student under the age of 16 years; the Doctor will confirm at the consultation stage that the student is sufficiently responsible to keep & administer their own contraceptive medication.

### 8.3 Controlled Medications

Good practice dictates that the storage of “controlled medication” must comply with the Misuse of Drugs (Safe Custody) Regulation (1973) as amended.

Any student who is prescribed 'controlled' medication will not be able to hold their own medication. Controlled medication must be dispensed from the Health Centre or Boarding House by prior agreement and training provided by the Health Centre Nurses. Controlled medication must be kept in a secure locked medicine cabinet inside a locked staff area. Only those authorised to dispense medication in the Health Centre or Boarding House hold the keys to the cupboard. Controlled medication records must be kept up to date. A separate, bound record book with numbered pages is kept for the administration of controlled medication, and the balance remaining is checked and signed at each administration.

### 8.4 Food supplements

8.4.1 Although students are permitted to take over the counter vitamins and minerals, at the discretion of their parents, the use of supplements, such as protein shakes, and other performance enhancing aids are not permitted within school or boarding houses for any student under 18 years. For students 18 years and over, the use of these supplements, is heavily discouraged, and those wishing to take such products do so at their own risk and not in the company of younger students.

The School provides a healthy, balanced diet, and students can increase their protein intake through the meal choices they make whilst in school alongside taking healthy snacks. If students require nutrition advice to ensure a protein rich diet, the school nurses or sports staff will be happy to offer guidance.

We strongly advise against students using body-building supplements, and these must not be taken on the school premises by students under 18 years of age. The Department of Health in the UK advises that young people have a balanced and healthy lifestyle through regular exercise and eating a balanced diet for their needs, and warn against body-building supplements, as there is evidence that excessive protein consumption can be dangerous. There is also concern that body-building supplements contain heavy metals, or illegal anabolic steroids not declared on the label. Most body building supplements are not licenced for children under 18 years.

### 8.5 Fridge Temperature Recording

Some liquid medications and vaccinations need to be kept at a cool temperature. The Health Centre has a designated medical fridge. Prescribed medication from the latter must be administered in accordance with the protocol in paragraph 8.

The Health Centre fridge temperature is checked daily to ensure optimum temperatures are maintained (between 2-8 degrees centigrade – ideally 3-5 degrees centigrade).

### 8.6 Disposal of Medicines

No out-of-date medication can be administered within Sidcot School; this includes any regular and emergency drugs.

Parents/guardians will be informed if medication which is intended for use by their child and held in the Health Centre, or Boarding Houses expires.

## **9. Supporting Students with Medical Conditions**

### 9.1 Chronic health conditions and disabilities

The care of students with chronic health conditions or disabilities is managed under the direction of the Health Centre Nurses. There will always be nurse or trained boarding house staff to ensure that treatment is available for each student with a healthcare plan.

The care of students with disabilities or specific health conditions (such as Diabetes, Epilepsy, or Cystic Fibrosis), is tailored to each student's individual requirements and is set out in their individual healthcare plan which is regularly reviewed and adapted as needs change.

Please refer to Supporting Students with medical conditions, disabilities and SEN policy 4.2.

### 9.2 Asthma

Please refer to the Asthma policy 4.3

The School encourages independence and self-management of children with asthma.

- Senior school students' reliever inhalers and spacer should always be carried on their person. These should be labelled with their name and date of birth so that they can be quickly returned in case of loss.
- Children in the Junior School may carry their own inhaler and spacer when parents and staff agree they are competent to do so.
- Younger children, including EYFS, will have their inhalers and spacers kept in a safe, accessible place in the classroom, clearly labelled with the child's name & administration instructions. The class teacher or EYFS staff will ensure that a child's reliever inhaler is always available during the school day.
- The Nursing Staff can store spare inhalers (labelled by the pharmacist) if required.
- Students with diagnoses of asthma have an individual care record (mini care plan); a full care plan will be activated if specific care needs are identified as part of this condition).

Sidcot School has arrangements for the use of an emergency reliever inhaler in School, please refer to the Asthma policy.

### 9.3 Children at Risk of Anaphylaxis

All staff receive training in recognising and responding to anaphylactic shock, including the administration of emergency adrenalin Auto-Injector with annual update CPD.

Individual Auto Injectors for students at risk of anaphylactic shock are always carried by Senior School students.

Children in the Junior School may carry their own Auto Injector when parents and staff agree they are competent to do so.

Younger children, including EYFS will have their Auto Injectors kept in a safe, accessible place in the classroom, clearly labelled with the child's name & administration instructions. The class teacher or EYFS staff will ensure a child's Auto Injector is always available during the school day. Such as mealtimes and games lessons.

Individual students' Auto Injectors are also kept in the Senior School Staff Room, near the Refectory.

It is the responsibility of parents of day students to ensure their Auto Injectors are with their child at School and are in date.

(Please refer to [Appendix 3: Flow chart: Managing Anaphylactic Shock](#))

## 10. Emotional and Mental Health and Wellbeing

The School promotes physical, mental and emotional wellbeing of all children and young people.

Wellbeing is at the forefront of the School's Personal Social Health Education programme, PSHE.

The Health Centre and Wellbeing Hub (Rose Cottage) provide a collaborative and holistic approach to student health and wellbeing. The Wellbeing Hub is staffed by the Student Wellbeing and Safeguarding Lead, and Pastoral Support and Attendance Lead. Sidcot School also employs two qualified counsellors.

Please refer to the Mental health and wellbeing policy 4.4, Anti-bullying policy 5.4, and Smoking, alcohol and drugs policy 5.6.

## 11. Infection Control

### 11.1 Childhood Infections

Should a child become unwell, Sidcot School follows the guidelines set out by the Public Health Agency [Guidance on infection control in schools and other childcare settings in Northern Ireland | HSC Public Health Agency \(hscni.net\)](#). The whole school community is encouraged to:

- Use the hand sanitizers on entering the building;
- Ensure regular hand washing with soap and water;
- Cover mouths when coughing /sneezing, use a tissue and where possible, and dispose of tissues by flushing away or into a rubbish bin (with lid) promptly and carefully;
- Younger children are supported to manage good hygiene within school.

In order to ensure a safe and healthy environment for all children and reduce the risk of infections we:

- Provide disposable protective aprons and gloves for staff when dealing with body fluids or where there is risk of contagious infections;
- Provide hand sanitizers at school entrances;
- Routinely deep clean, and sterilising processes are in place for all areas of the EYFS, Junior School and Senior School;
- If an outbreak of illness occurs a deep clean is completed in the appropriate area/s by Housekeeping staff;
- The School aims to reduce unnecessary exposure to illnesses and ensures infections are managed effectively;
- If at any time there are any infectious diseases present within the EYFS or Junior School, information will be clearly displayed in the area where the infection has occurred and parents whose children have direct contact with that area will be notified;

- Senior School parents will be notified if there is a serious infectious disease outbreak;
- Should a child become ill they should only return to school when they are over any symptoms, are well enough to do so, and in accordance with the guidance found in ([Appendix 4](#))
- Boarding students will be cared for by the School Nurses in the Sidcot School Health Centre if they are infectious, until arrangements can be made for them to be collected and cared for by their parents or guardians.
- Parents of day students must inform the school if their child will not be attending, and if their child has any serious illness or communicable disease.

### 11.2 EYFS

If a child in the EYFS becomes ill at school; an initial assessment of their symptoms may result in parents being called to collect, or the School Nurse attending to assess and manage any symptoms.

Where possible, parents will be contacted by a member of the EYFS staff or School Nurse to agree any actions, such as administering of non-prescription medicines (see 8.1.1) or collecting the child in more serious cases, or in the case of vomiting or diarrhoea.

If a child is unwell at home, depending upon the symptoms, they may have to be kept away from school in accordance with our communicable diseases guidelines found in ([Appendix 4](#))

Should a child be well enough to attend, we do require that parents of children in EYFS notify staff of any illness that has occurred. This ensures staff can monitor for any signs of reoccurrence. In extreme cases this will also ensure any symptoms of infectious diseases are picked up early and managed effectively.

### 11.3 Information for Pregnant Mothers

There are several infections which can be harmful to the unborn baby. These include:

- Chicken Pox
- German Measles (Rubella)
- Slapped Cheek
- Measles

If a child has been at school when one of the above infections is present, parents will be informed, and we advise mothers to see their GP/Midwife to check immunity and seek professional medical advice.

### 11.4 Notifiable Diseases

There is a list of notifiable diseases which we have a legal obligation to report to the Health Protection Agency and Ofsted should a child within school become infected.

In these cases, we work closely with parents, the HPA and Ofsted to ensure we follow any additional advice that may be given.

### 11.5 Head Lice

Anyone can catch head lice, but preschool children, primary school children and their families are most at risk.

Schools throughout North Somerset no longer carry out routine Head Lice surveillance. It proved not to be effective as well as being humiliating/embarrassing for children. Further; it is regarded as an invasion of privacy.

The parents of a child suspected of having head lice will be informed of the concern.

Children will not be sent home from school if there is concern they may have head lice, but parents will be asked to organise treatment at home and prior to their return to school.

The School Nurse or boarding house staff will support boarding students who present with concerns about head lice and treat as necessary.

### 11.6 Verruca's and Warts

Whilst in school, any exposed warts or verruca's must be covered by a small waterproof plaster or dressing.

Students are not excluded from swimming if they have a verruca on their foot. The virus is not contagious in water, however when walking around the poolside or changing rooms a secure waterproof plaster, verruca socks or pool side footwear (flip flop type) shoes must be worn.

Parents are asked to ensure that their children are provided with verruca socks (preferably) or poolside footwear.

## **12. Sharps**

Any immunisations or vaccinations delivered by injection will take place in the Sidcot School Health Centre where sharps containers that comply with British Standard 7320 are safely stored and returned to the local medical centre when full. Any student's specific medical condition requiring arrangements to be made for the delivery of medication by injection and safe sharps disposal, will form part of the student's individual healthcare plan and risk assessment. Arrangements for disposal of sharps in the Boarding House will be made where appropriate.

### 12.1 Managing Sharps – advice for staff

- Sharps should not be passed from hand to hand;
- Keep all handling to a minimum;
- All sharps must go directly into a sharps bin;
- Do not re-sheath needles.
- Always wear gloves and use litter picker tongues if available when picking up any discarded needles on site (Any discarded needles found must be reported to the senior management team).
- Always hold sharps in the centre of shaft to prevent injury to fingers/hands.

### 12.2 Needle Stick/Sharps Injury

Sharps are not only medical sharps such as needles for injection but defined as objects or devices having acute rigid corners, edges, points or protuberances that when handled may accidentally cause a penetrating or cutting injury to the skin. These include scalpel blades, art knives, scissors, lancets, broken glass, ampoules and pipettes and anything with a jagged edge – cans etc.

There are two types of injuries from sharps:

- Uncontaminated - all sharps that have not been in contact with anyone else prior to injury.
- Contaminated – all sharps that have previously been in contact with another person's body fluids or other sources of contamination (rust, dirt etc.)

### 12.3 Procedure after Needle Stick/Sharps Injury Non–contaminated sharps injury:

- Wash area with soap and water,
- See the School Nurse or your GP;



- Apply antibacterial cream/spray and cover wound,
- All staff/ students must complete accident form promptly.

#### Contaminated Sharp injury

- If skin is broken wash area vigorously with soap and water,
- If wound is bleeding DO NOT SUCK, encourage wound to bleed out if only a minor bleed,
- Contact the School Nurse, see GP or attend Accident and Emergency department for medical attention,
- Support and counselling should be sought if required,
- All staff/students must complete accident form promptly.

#### 12.4 Risks from Needle Stick/Sharps Injury

Sharps injuries with blood and other potentially infectious body fluids must be acted upon immediately as they are the most common routes for transmitting Hepatitis B and HIV.

The School Nurses and any staff who have contact with medical sharps should receive Hepatitis B immunisation from their GP.

### **13. Safe Disposal of Bodily Fluids – advice for staff**

All body fluids must be treated as if they are contaminated (anything that has been excreted from the body).

- Blood
- Urine
- Faeces
- Mucus
- Vomit

#### 13.1 Procedure for Dealing with Body Fluids

(Please refer to [Appendix 5: Safe Disposal of Body Fluids Flow Chart](#))

Ensure the area is made safe. Put up a hazard sign and keep everyone out of the contaminated area,

Always wear the disposable gloves and apron provided in the Body Fluids Disposal Kit (BFDK), Body Fluids Disposal Kits can be found by all First Aid boxes, the Boarding Houses, Sports Hall and the Health Centre,

Follow the procedure for cleaning up body fluids as per instructions in BFDK. Complete an Incident Form.

Disposal of body fluids and thorough contamination cleaning is carried out under the direction of the Catering and Domestic Manager, with comprehensive cleaning materials available in the Housekeeping department. Please refer to the Health and Safety Policy.

### **14. Defibrillator**

Sidcot School has a defibrillator to support intervention in the case of sudden cardiac arrest which can happen to people at any age and without warning. It is recognised that quick action in the form of early CPR and defibrillation can help save lives. The School Defibrillator is easy

to use, and staff are trained in the use of CPR as part of first aid training. The Defibrillator can be found in the entrance lobby of the Senior School Main Entrance.

The school nurses also have a semi-automatic defibrillator in the health centre for qualified nursing staff use only.

## 15. First Aid

Please refer to the Health and Safety policy 8.1, for details of the First aid policy. Staff are trained in First Aid throughout the School, and there will always be a minimum of one suitably qualified paediatric First Aider either on site or present on any outing.

## 16. Complaints

Should parents/guardians or students be dissatisfied with medical care or treatment they may discuss their concerns directly with the School Nurse, School Doctor (boarding students) or follow the procedure outlined in the complaints policy which is available on the website or in hard copy form free of charge.

## 17. Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Lead School Nurse, in conjunction with the Deputy Head Pastoral, or sooner if incident changes to practice or legislation so require. It will be presented to the Board of Governors at their Annual Safeguarding Review.

## 18. References

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2024) [Keeping children safe in education 2023 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/124141/Keeping-children-safe-in-education-2023.pdf)
- Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2023) [Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/124141/Keeping-children-safe-in-education-2023.pdf)
- Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions (update 2017) [Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/124141/Keeping-children-safe-in-education-2023.pdf)
  - Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023) [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/124141/Keeping-children-safe-in-education-2023.pdf)
- RCN toolkit for School Nurses (2019) [An RCN Toolkit for School Nurses: Supporting your practice to deliver services for children and young people in educational settings | Royal College of Nursing](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/124141/Keeping-children-safe-in-education-2023.pdf)
- Information Sharing – Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers (2024) [Information sharing: advice for practitioners \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/124141/Keeping-children-safe-in-education-2023.pdf)
- Infection control: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-healthengland>
- Mental Health and behaviour in schools (2018) [Mental health and behaviour in schools - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-healthengland)
- The ISI Regulatory Handbook for Schools – Commentary on the Regulatory Requirements 2023 [School updates :: Independent Schools Inspectorate \(isi.net\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/124141/Keeping-children-safe-in-education-2023.pdf)
- National Minimum standards for Boarding Schools (2022) [National minimum standards for boarding schools \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/124141/Keeping-children-safe-in-education-2023.pdf)
- Royal Pharmaceutical Society <https://www.rpharms.com/recognition/setting-professional-standards/safe-and-secure-handling-of-medicines>

## 19. Document Change History

<b>Date of Change</b>	<b>Detail significant changes and any new legislation / guidance</b>
3.12.2016	Updating of references, minor grammatical changes and clarification of anomalies. Adoption by Board.
19.05.2017	Policy updated to reflect changes to around food supplements (para 8).
07.10.2017	Reviewed and adopted by Board.
24.09.2018	Review and updated to reflect changes in documentation – Patient Tracker Record Keeping Software
02.04.2019	Update information re EHIC Update information re Concussion
01.09.19	Clarification re Auto Injectors
05.10.2019	Policy adopted by Board at Annual Safeguarding Review
14.09.2020	Include information COVID-19 Update – EU students must have health insurance, EHIC stops December 2020
30.09.2021	Changes to Covid-19 arrangements in line with government guidance.
01.12.2022	Removal of Covid 19 arrangements Update on arrangement for guardians.
01.12.2023	Reviewed and updated by Senior Nurse and Pastoral Lead
05.06.2024	Reviewed and updated by Nurse Lead
23.01.2025	Included reference to the Royal Pharmaceutical Society

## **Appendix 1 Health Centre Information**

Health Centre Opening Times

Monday – Friday 8.00 am – 6.00 pm

Health Centre Telephone Numbers

Telephone 01934 845 263

### **School Doctors:**

Dr Ruth Colson & Dr Trudy Withey

Winscombe Surgery

Hillyfields Way

Winscombe,

North Somerset

BS25 1AF

Telephone 01934 842 211

**Doctor's Surgery is held every Monday and Thursday 1.15 pm at the Sidcot School Health Centre for boarding students.**

## **Appendix 2 - Protocol for calling a Doctor – out of hours' services**

**It is no longer the local GP who covers out of hours' emergency care for patients**

Winscombe Surgery provides services Monday – Friday 8 am - 6.30pm (excluding Bank Holidays) At all other times staff need to follow the Instructions Below:

**If you feel you need medical advice or assistance, but it is not an immediate emergency call 111.NHS 111 is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.**

- When you call NHS 111, you will need to clearly give the patients details, medical symptoms and any appropriate history. You will be advised of any immediate action you need to take to help the patient. Arrangements will be made for you to be contacted or seen by an appropriate health care professional.
- If you are advised that the patient needs to be seen by a doctor you will give details of Medical Centre to attend and appointment time.
- If the patient has been prioritised for a home visit, NHS 111 will organise this, you may be contacted by the Doctor prior to the visit.
- If the condition of the patient deteriorates, or you are unsure of the arrangements call 111 again and report concern/changes.

**In an Emergency, do not hesitate to call 999**

**Information you will need to provide at the walk-in centre, Minor Injuries, A&E or to a visiting Doctor or paramedic:**

Child's name

Date of Birth

Current address: Boarding House, School Address: Sidcot School, Oakridge Lane,  
Winscombe, BS25

1PD

Parents' Information: Contact details

UK Guardian Information: Contact Details

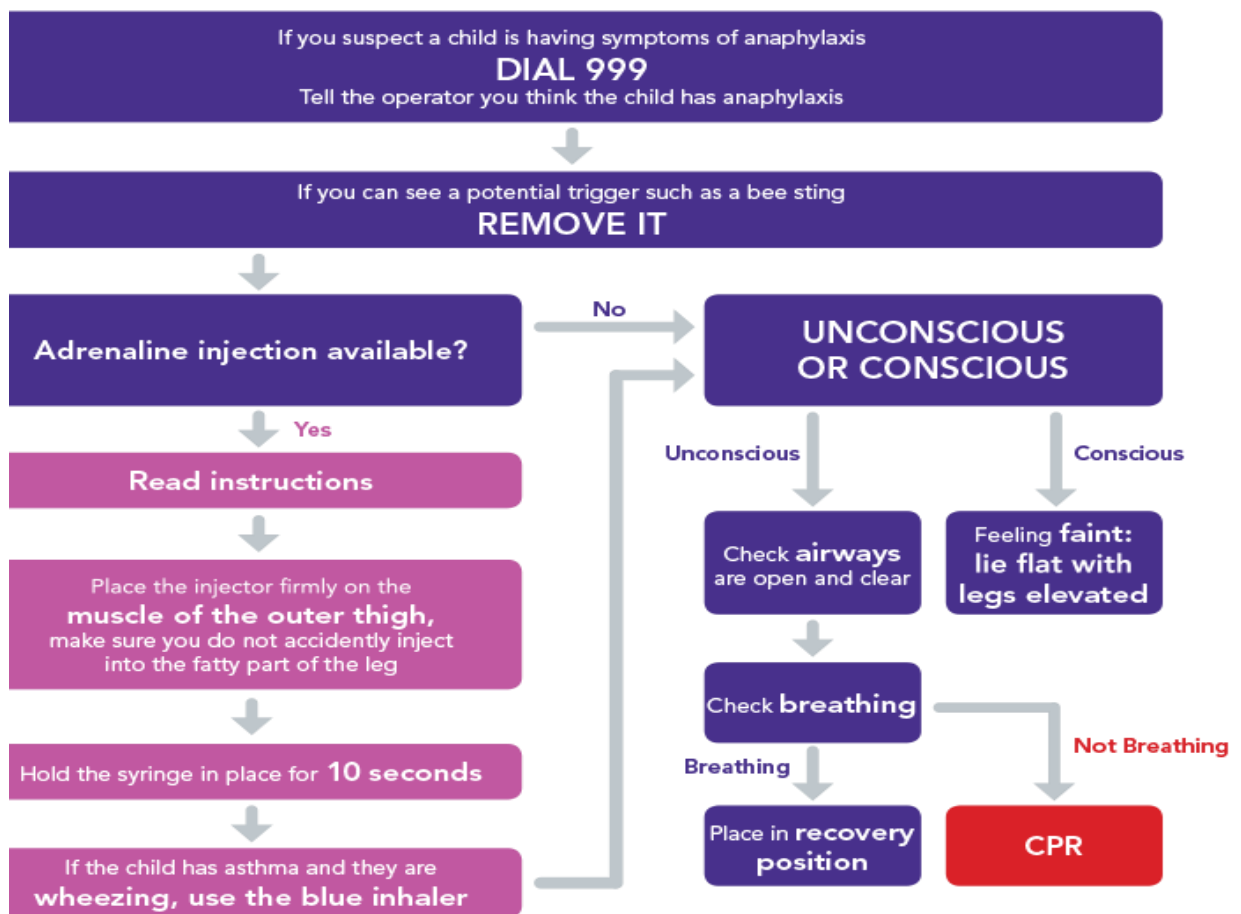
GP: Dr Colson & Dr Withey

Winscombe Surgery, Hillyfields Way, Winscombe, North Somerset, BS25

1AF Telephone 01934 842211 / 842911

(There are a small number of local boarding students who parents have chosen not to register with the school GP – These details are forwarded to the Boarding House for the students Boarding House medical file).

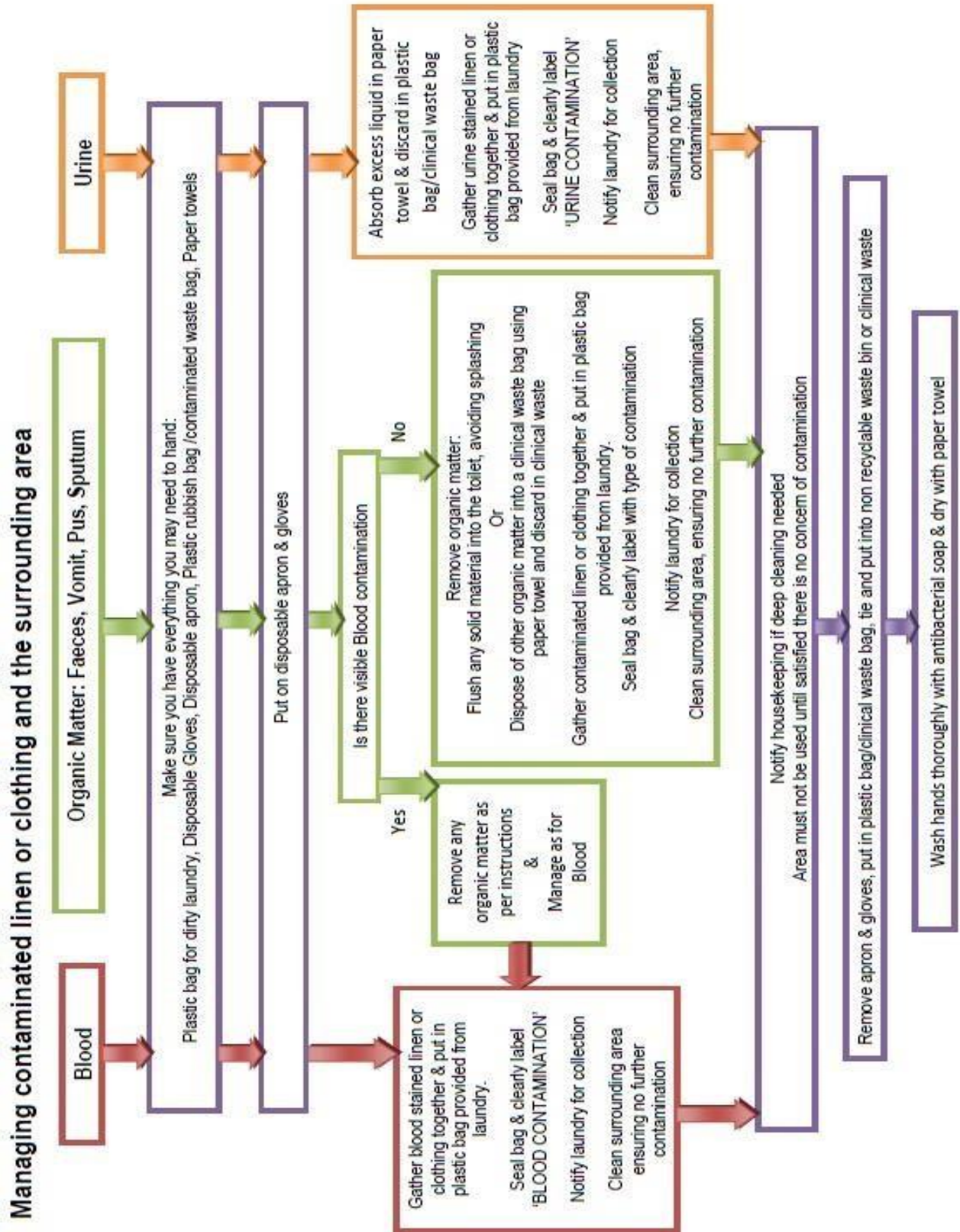
### Appendix 3 Flow Chart: Managing Anaphylactic Shock



## **Appendix 4 Guidelines for infection control EYFS, Junior School and Senior School**

[Guidance on infection control in schools poster.pdf \(hscni.net\)](#)

## Appendix 5 - Safe Disposal of Body Fluids Flow Chart



Note: chlorine releasing powder found in body fluids disposal kits is not suitable for use on linen (bedding/towels) or clothing as may damage/discolour the fabric



