



Health Issues Policy

Policy ratified by Board of Management: September 2008

Reviewed: 14/09/2012

Reviewed: 02/02/2016

Reviewed: 13/02/2019

Reviewed: 24th September 2025

School Patron: The Right Rev. Dr. Paul Colton,
Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross

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Chairperson: Reverend Eugene Griffin

Principal: Ms Jill Horan

Introductory Statement

This policy was formulated by the staff of St. Multose National School in consultation with parents and sanctioned by the Board of Management. It is supplemented by the school Health, Safety and Welfare policy, the school Safety Statement, Substance Misuse Policy, Administration of Medication Policy, Digital Learning and Acceptable Usage Policy among others.

Rationale

This policy was devised in order to provide the best possible health care to the staff and students of the school. It was necessary to focus on this area in order to keep parents informed of school rules in the area of health, to keep in line with current trends.

Relationship to the Characteristic Spirit of the School

Our school cherishes all pupils equally and has put in place a series of measures to develop health conscious citizens.

Aims

- To encourage all children to adopt a healthy lifestyle (Active School/Healthy lunchbox policy/AUP contracts) and a responsible attitude to the world around them (Green School/Plastic Free Kinsale)
- To make parents aware of procedures in relation to administration of medicines and first aid
- To provide optimum care for the children should they be unwell
- To encourage parents to avail of the School Medical Services which are available to all primary school children

Guidelines

- If a child is sick, s/he should be cared for at home and should remain at home until fully recovered. Consideration must be given to the other children and the teachers in the school. Parents/guardians must fill in the absence form on the Aladdin platform in the morning of a child's absence. The school secretary/Principal will contact parents/guardians if no communication has been received.
- Children with contagious/serious diseases **MUST** remain at home until a G.P. certifies return to school.
- Parents/guardians are requested to check their child's hair regularly (weekly, if possible) for head lice. Parents/guardians should notify the school if their child has head lice/nits so the school can send a general alert to other families. Our school website has useful information from the HSE on the treatment of head lice.
- Children are encouraged to be litter conscious, in the classroom, in the schoolyard and in the wider environment.

- Mobile phones (including Smart phones) or any other electronic devices are not allowed in school. A written request must be made by parents/guardians if they wish their child to have a device in their school bag – this rule applies to those children only who need to walk/cycle home from school or from their school bus stop. All devices must remain switched off and in the child's schoolbag during school hours. Please see Acceptable Usage Policy for further details.
- Children should wear sensible footwear. No high heels or flip-flops allowed. Children need to be able to run around safely. Ensure your child can fasten his/her shoes themselves.
- On cold or wet days, it is imperative that your child has a coat. Children need to spend some time out of doors in the fresh air each day. Shorts may be worn in the summer term and in the early part of a new school year, if the weather is pleasant.
- **No smoking** by any persons on the school premises.
- Parents/guardians must inform the school if a child has an allergy or food intolerance.
- Our school has a healthy eating policy. Processed foods, sugary snacks, salty snacks, "health" bars, breakfast bars, Winders/Bear Yoyos, Frubes, popcorn, Cheese Strings, juices and smoothies are discouraged. Crisps, sweets and fizzy drinks are prohibited. A small treat may be included in the lunchbox on Friday. This might be a mini-bar, biscuit, small bun.
- Parents/guardians may subscribe to Allianz Pupil Insurance (24 hour cover) for St. Multose School pupils through the school. Bills for this are sent out to parents/guardians in September each year.
- If a child is injured or becomes ill at school, we will contact parents by phone. It is therefore essential that we have home, work & mobile numbers, as well as that of a responsible person chosen by the parent to act in loco parentis when necessary. Parents/Guardians are responsible for keeping their contact details up to date on the Aladdin platform.
If no person can be contacted, a teacher will act in loco parentis. Your child will be taken by two members of staff to the clinic of an available local doctor.
Or in the case of an emergency, two members of staff will take the child to the nearest Emergency Department.

Drugs/Medications

It is the policy of the Board of Management of St. Multose N.S. that only basic first aid is given to pupils. No drugs or medication will be administered unless parents have indicated to the Principal in writing that such drugs/medication are necessary in the event of a life-threatening illness/event (e.g. anaphylactic shock, cardiac arrest etc). The policy also states that where such written instructions exist teachers are indemnified from any consequences. (See Administration of Medication Policy)

- The School Medical Services are directed at pupils in the following classes with the level of services outlined:
 - a) Junior Infants: Vision testing by public health nurse
 - b) Senior Infants: Auditory testing by public health nurse

- This policy will be linked to the SPHE and SESE policies of the school.

Success Criteria

This policy should cause minimum disruption to the school day. Children who are unwell will be kept at home thereby minimising the number of children absent from school through spread of infection (especially colds, flu and stomach upsets).

Roles & Responsibilities

The health issues listed in the guidelines put the onus on parents/guardians to maintain the good practices outlined therein. Staff members have a duty to monitor the guidelines and encourage all pupils to follow them carefully. Class teachers will be responsible for contacting parents if a child is unwell. The School Medical Service will fulfil its role as outlined in the guidelines. The school secretary will contact parents if there is head lice, chicken pox etc. in the school.

Timeframe for Implementation

The revised policy comes into effect from September 2025.

Timeframe for Review

The Policy will be reviewed as the need arises. Any changes to legislation will be added as necessary.

Responsibility for Review

The teaching staff and Board of Management will carry out the review. All feedback from parents/guardians and pupils on the policy will be discussed and the policy further updated if necessary. The Principal and the Deputy Principal will make any necessary amendments to the policy.

Ratification & Communication

The Board of Management ratifies all policies. The reviewed policies are found in the office and on our school website. Parents/guardians may make suggestions on our policies.

Signed by Chairperson of the Board of Management

Date