

Health Care Policy

RESIDENTIAL PUPILS

At St. John's we provide schooling and residential boarding to children who have very complex needs and with a diverse range of different disorders and medical conditions. At all times and in all situations we aim to provide a very high standard of care and medical support to all our pupils.

Our nurses are State Registered Nurses and cover the hours of 7.00am – 6.30pm Monday to Friday. We also welcome to the School a General Practitioner who visits once a week. Our Care Staff provide care for the children at all out of school hours, and the Waking Night Team help the children throughout the night should it be required. Throughout weekends and evenings our Nurses are on call and so are members of our Senior Management Team. The team provide a very strong provision of Health Care and Medical experience across the school.

Resident pupils, with parents' consent, are registered with a Seaford Practitioner at Seaford Health Centre, Dane Road, Seaford BN25 1DH who is also the School Medical Officer for St. John's School & College. This means that the School and Local Authority carry out the majority of medical care. Routine medication is supplied to parents/guardians for weekends and holidays. All referrals and treatments are paid for by the local medical centre and health authority.

At home during holidays, if needed, resident pupils are seen by the General Practitioner at home as a temporary resident and treatment given. This should not be a problem if it is explained to the home General Practitioner when the pupil starts boarding at the school.

If, however, parents/guardian wish to keep their child registered with their own General Practitioner, they may, of course, do so. This will mean all routine medications must be supplied by their General Practitioner to the school for term times. If this is the parents/guardian choice, we ask them to notify the school of all referrals and medical treatments done by their own General Practitioner and specialists. The resident pupil will then be treated at school as a temporary resident in Seaford. Any requests for referrals from our School Medical Officer will have to go through their General Practitioner.

Each child will receive an annual School Medical including developmental audiology, sight and colour vision, urine, blood pressure, eye, teeth and hearing tests, conducted by the Nurse. The School's General Practitioner, with the Nurse present, will carry out cardiac, lung, abdominal, eye and ear tests. He will also check for orthopaedic problems, i.e scoliosis. Parents/Guardians will require to sign a consent form agreeing to these yearly medicals. All children are registered with the local Medical Centre. Where possible parents/guardians will be informed prior to any medical appointment if this not possible parents/guardians will be kept informed of situations and results of visits. Resident pupils will be escorted to all medical appointments by the Nurse or Care Staff. The following hospitals, clinics, surgery and centres are used by the Medical Departments at St. John's:

- Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital
- Mackeith Centre, Children's Hospital
- Eastbourne District General Hospital
- Brighton General Hospital
- Royal Sussex County Hospital, including Pathology, Accident & Emergency ENT Department
- Seaford Medical Centre
- School Dentist/ Orthodontist – Mr Manny Makratzakis
- Optometrist – [Sussex Eye Hospital Brighton]
- Opticians & Optometrist – Barraclough, Stiles & Partners, Seaford
- Adolescent Mental Health Centre – Dr Blincow, Consultant Psychiatrist
- Clermont Child Protection Unit
- Newhaven Child Protection Unit
- Conquest Hospital, Hastings

All pupils at St. John's School & College will be seen by the School Dentist twice yearly, and treatment or referral to an orthodontist carried out unless otherwise requested.

At anytime requests can be made to our medical team for specific areas of medical concern to be monitored. Prescribed daily medications will be continued throughout term time and a supply of these medications will be sent home for all school holidays. Non-prescribed medication will be given to pupils for headaches, temperatures, heavy cold, sickness etc. All pupils have individual medication sheets, which the Nurses and Staff sign when medication is given. **All medication is recorded.** Changes in prescribed medication must be accompanied by a letter from the Consultant / General Practitioner stating name, dosage and times to be given before the Nurses can administer the same. Parents/guardian have to sign a consent form allowing administration of prescribed, non-prescribed and emergency medication, also for general and local anaesthetic if hospitalised.

As a Residential School the risk of spreading infection is high, therefore we ask that if a pupil is unwell, eg have a temperature, sore throat, heavy cold, severe cough or vomiting and diarrhoea, they stay at home and if necessary checked are by a General Practitioner before returning to school.

As the school does not have 24 hours on site nursing cover, if a pupil is ill then we will ask parents /guardians to take them home if the condition causes obvious problems for the other pupils. This obviously will depend on the nature and severity of the child's illness and we will judge each situation independently. It is the policy of the school to protect all pupils and staff from cross infection and unnecessary suffering.

If a pupil should require routine surgery under General Anaesthetic, we request that they remain at home for 24 – 48 hours and parents/guardians liaise with the nursing staff before returning the pupil to school.

If at anytime pupils require hospitalisation, all attempts will be made to contact parents/guardians

immediately and inform them of the situation. If the pupil has to stay in hospital parents/guardians will be requested to stay with them, or provide relevant parental cover. As soon as the pupil is fit to return to school, arrangements will be made to implement this.

Parents/guardians are requested to notify the nurses of any medical care appointments and treatment received during holiday times so that school records can be maintained.

At anytime during the pupil's stay at St. John's parents/guardians will be able to request details of their medical records and if they require copies of particular reports, then this too can be arranged.

All drugs are kept in a locked cupboard at all times and all administered medication is logged. No prescribed medication will be administered without thorough discussions with all parties involved. All prescribed medication must have an accompanying letter from the Doctor/Specialist stating the type of medication, dosage and times before it can be administered by the Nurse. If at any point during the pupil's stay at the school they are subject to a Child Protection issue, then this will be dealt with by the Child Protection Team and, if necessary, the local Social Services. Again in an incident of this nature, parents/guardians would be informed immediately subject to the appropriate procedures being carried out.

The Nursing team will regularly monitor residential pupil's health and this will include height, weight, eyes, ears and teeth checks. Any necessary vaccinations will also be carried out through the proper medical channels for pupils registered with the School Medical Officer, ie Polio, Diphtheria, Tetanus and Flu. All pupils, with parents/guardians consent, receive the BGC vaccination in school. All local appointments arranged through the school will be attended by one of the Nursing team. Parents/guardians may be requested, or request themselves, to attend any medical appointment.

The medical department works closely with the school therapy team which includes physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy and sensory needs. The nurse also works alongside the Educational Department with regards to Personal and Social Education [P.S.E.] presenting a number of topics in the class situation with parents/guardians consent in the first instance and teacher being present.

At St John's School & College we do not forget that it is the pupil that we are caring for and we will endeavour to work in partnership with parents/guardians and relevant agencies to provide the best medical care for them.

Mr. D. Kent
Principal

Marilyn Ross RGN RSCN
School Nurse

Mr. Chris Thompson
Head of Care

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