Health Care In School

As part of the wider support available to pupils and their families a Community Paediatrician and School Nurse work with our Pupil Support Team at Charleston Academy. Both will see pupils who have on-going health problems that affect their physical, emotional and mental well-being.

In addition, our School Nurse also oversees the Immunisation and Health Screening Programmes. This consists of the following:

- BCG immunisations – S1
- Tetanus, Diphtheria and polio immunisations – S2/3 at age 14
- Meningitis C – as required
- HPV – girls only at various times

Illness and First Aid

Any pupil who reports feeling unwell or requires first aid will be sent by their teacher, accompanied if required, to the school office where they will be assessed by a member of staff with a First Aid qualification. At interval or lunchtime pupils should refer to the office themselves. The school does not formally operate a sick-bay or medical room. If pupils are not well enough to return to classes, parents will be contacted to take the pupil home. If First Aid is required, this will be administered and parents contacted / consulted as to the next steps. This may involve spending some time out of class before returning to a normal timetable, or it may require the pupil to be collected and taken home. In the most serious situations, the pupil may need to be transferred to A & E. When possible, a member of staff will assist with the transfer to A & E or an ambulance may have to be called. Parents will be contacted and would be expected to meet school staff at A & E as soon as possible, as school staff will not be able to stay with the pupil in hospital. For this reason, it is vital that emergency contact numbers are kept up to date at all times.

On no account should an unwell pupil leave the school without first referring to the school office.

Medicines

There is no legal requirement upon staff, teaching or non-teaching, to administer medication. Staff undertaking such duties do so on a voluntary basis.

Where medicines are required by pupils during the school day, then our office staff will be able to keep these securely and assist with their administration when required. This includes medicines such as inhalers, antibiotics or other prescribed medicines. The office require that these medicines be clearly labelled with the pupil's name, dosage and interval required. This

applies to all medicines, including over-the-counter medicines such as paracetamol antihistamines.

The Education Authority will indemnify staff who volunteer to administer medication to pupils and likewise indemnify any member of staff acting in good faith for the benefit of a pupil in an emergency situation. Where staff have been trained and act in accordance with training and medical advice, no question of individual liability will arise.

Any medication to be administered in school should be clearly marked with the pupil's name, should be brought to school by the parent/guardian and handed in to the school office. It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to ensure that the medication is not out of date, that there is sufficient quantity in school, that it is renewed as necessary and that any unused supplies are uplifted for disposal. The school must be advised in writing by the parent/guardian of any alteration to the prescribed dosage of medication.

Parents/guardians may consider their children to be responsible enough to carry and administer their own medication. In this event the school must be given full written details of the condition/illness from which the child suffers along with written details of the medication to be taken and the self administration routine.

The school must be informed in writing if a child is subject to any known allergic reaction e.g. to foodstuffs which the child may come into contact with in the course of the school day.