



SIR THOMAS FREMANTLE SCHOOL

A CO-EDUCATIONAL SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS AGED 11-19

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19th March 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re Medicines in School

It has been brought to our attention that a number of pupils in Year 11 are bringing medicines into school so that they can self-medicate as and when they feel it necessary. This is strictly against our school policy for a number of reasons, as explained below. Furthermore, pupils are reported to be offering and sharing medications with their peers. Drugs such as codeine, which have been mentioned as being brought in to school, are in some forms prescription only medicines and with justifiable reasons. Some countries now even prohibit codeine being sold as an over the counter medication due to its potential side effects and addictive nature.

The school cannot possibly care for a pupil who may be unwell if we are not made aware of any symptoms and medication that they may have taken. Allergic reactions can occur to medications, albeit rarely, even if an individual has taken the medication previously and not suffered any adverse reactions. Certain medicines are also contra-indicated where there are underlying medical conditions, i.e. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDS) such as ibuprofen should not be taken by asthmatics as it can induce an attack. If an asthmatic individual were to take an NSAID without realising they shouldn't, the consequences could be very serious.

A pupil could also unintentionally over medicate themselves, i.e. taking a medicine too frequently or not within the recommended dosage guidelines. Paracetamol is a perfect example of this as it is often contained in various medicines, as well as in its simple form. Some medicines are also not suitable to be taken with other medications they may be taking and pupils could not be aware of this. We are particularly concerned about the quantities of medication that are potentially being brought in to school. It is important to bear in mind that taking any medicine in a greater dose than prescribed or recommended, is classed as an overdose, which can have serious health consequences.

We ask that you please support the school in our policy by not allowing your child to carry medicines on their person whilst at school, no matter how small the quantity (the only exception to this is emergency medication in the form of asthma reliever inhalers and adrenaline auto-injectors for anaphylaxis). We would also appreciate if you would discuss the content of this letter with your child to alert them to this matter and that importantly they should not be accepting any medication from their peers.



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Should you feel that your child needs medication to be kept in school, please do contact me to arrange this. Thank you for your support and co-operation.

Yours sincerely,



Julie Smith
Specialist Support Assistant (Medical & Well-being)



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