



BARNARD CASTLE SCHOOL

Medical Care

Medical Centre

The school medical centre is located behind Old Courts boarding house, close to the playing fields. The centre aims to provide the highest standard of care for all pupils at school and is open from 8:00am to 5:00pm from Monday to Friday and cover is provided on Saturdays. The medical centre staff administer first aid, treat accidents and emergencies, and assess and care for children who have taken ill. Communication between parents and the medical centre is welcome and encouraged to ensure that the most appropriate care is delivered to all pupils.

School Medical Officer

The school Medical Officer is Dr Carter. He is responsible for the medical care of boarders. There is a daily clinic attended by one of the School Doctors for boarders at 8.15am from Monday to Friday. All boarders will be registered with Barnard Castle Surgery on admission. In addition to the medical card, the medical centre also requires a boarding pupil to complete a NHS form GMS1 and New Patient Registration Health Questionnaire and additional surgery Questionnaire for Children. Overseas pupils will be issued with an NHS card following registration with Barnard Castle Surgery.

Medical Card

Parents of all pupils are requested to complete the school medical card and return it to the School medical centre with their application, enclosing any relevant information from treating medical professionals.

The medical card information is essential in ensuring that the appropriate care and treatment can be administered in the event of illness, accident, or injury.

Medical Examination and Immunisation

During their first term, all new boarders will receive an orientation to the medical centre and a medical examination from the medical centre staff and if necessary one of the School Doctors.

Parental consent will be sought from time to time for children to receive the routine range of immunisations recommended by the Department of Health for all children of their age. Currently this applies to pupils in Prep school, Year 8, Year 9 and Year 11.

Travel vaccinations which are required by any boarders will be arranged through the Barnard Castle Surgery or a travel clinic on request and on receipt of parental consent.

Illness

The school will contact parents if their child suffers anything more than a trivial injury, or if they become unwell during the school day, or if the school has any worries or concerns about their health. The school may ask parents to collect their child if they become ill during the school day.

When a boarding pupil becomes ill they will be assessed at the medical centre in the first instance and seen by a doctor if necessary. If needed, junior boarders will be admitted to the medical centre for observation during the school day and often senior boarders may recover in their rooms and will be regularly observed by boarding staff and medical centre staff.

Emergency Medical treatment

In accepting a place at the school, parents authorise the Headmaster, or an authorised deputy acting on his behalf, to consent on the advice of an appropriately qualified medical specialist to their child receiving emergency medical treatment, including general anaesthetic and surgical procedure under the NHS if the School is unable to contact the parents in time.

If a child is not entitled to receive NHS treatment, the school requires parents to authorise the Headmaster, or an authorised deputy acting on his behalf, to consent on the advice of an appropriately qualified medical specialist to their child receiving privately arranged emergency medical treatment, including general anaesthetic and surgical procedure at the parents' expense.

Medical treatment received during holidays

The medical centre should be informed in writing at the start of each term if a child has received any medical treatment or any immunisations during the holidays.

Confidentiality and Medical Records

The confidentiality and rights of pupils as patients are appropriately respected by the school. This includes the right of a pupil deemed to be "Gillick Competent" to give or withhold consent for his/her own treatment. Fraser guidelines, more commonly referred to as Gillick competence is used in medical law to decide whether a child (16 years or younger) is able to consent to his or her own medical treatment, without the need for parental permission or knowledge. A child will be Gillick competent if he or she has sufficient understanding and intelligence to understand fully what is proposed.

A confidential medical record on each pupil is kept securely in the in the medical centre. The medical record contains the information provided by parents, together with the medical card completed on admission. It will also contain details of any treatment that a pupil receives during their time at the school, including records of all accidents and injuries.

Medical information is not routinely accessible by all staff. Only essential information in respect of pupils with medical alerts and conditions is available. Any social information of a sensitive nature is provided to designated staff when relevant to their interaction with pupils in the classroom or, for example, when arranging trips and visits. Catering staff are also provided with the names of pupils with food allergies or medical alerts relevant to their department.

A boarding pupils NHS record will transfer to their new doctor when they register with a new doctor after leaving school.

All medical records are stored securely in the relevant file until the pupil's 50th birthday, when they will be securely destroyed.

Medicines and Treatments brought to School by pupils

Pupils should not keep medication of any description in their possession without the approval of the school medical centre.

Parents should follow the protocol for “Receipt of medicines from Parents/ Guardians” for any ad-hoc medicines required by students.

Parents of students with an ongoing medical condition which necessitates regular access to medication, please follow the protocol for “Receipt of medicines from Parents/ Guardians” and inform the medical centre staff, so that an appropriate regime can be devised and communicated to relevant staff. The relevant academic and pastoral staff will be informed, in strict confidence, of any condition that is likely to affect the child in any area of school life.

Out-patient appointments (Boarders)

Outpatient appointments for chronic conditions and illness during term time are often unavoidable. Parents should inform the medical centre of such appointments at the earliest opportunity and if they wish for the appointment to be co-ordinated by the medical centre. There is a charge for hospital transport for boarders which will be added to the end of term bill.

The medical centre staff or Matrons will contact parents with an update on return to School.

Dental Treatment (Boarders)

Routine dental appointments and orthodontic treatment plans should take place during holidays. The School Medical Centre does not co-ordinate routine dental appointments.

Emergency dental treatment only will be co-ordinated by the Medical centre staff or Matrons.

All parents of new pupils are requested to complete and return the enclosed medical card to the medical centre prior to the start of term.

If you are a boarder the GMS1 form and New Patient Registration Health Questionnaire and Child Questionnaire must also be submitted.