



Parents' Guide to Reception

2020 / 2021



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Welcome

The purpose of this guide is to give both new and current parents useful information about life at Avalon, in Reception, in particular. Reception is the final year of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) at Avalon School. We try to keep you fully informed during the course of the year through regular mailings and this publication is intended to be a handy source of reference about the school and its structure. If you are unsure about anything having read this guide, please contact the appropriate member of staff.

Our Vision and Mission Statement

At Avalon school, all our children will take with them a love of learning by having:

-  a high standard of academic knowledge and skills;
-  the ability and desire to build on their knowledge and skills;
-  a strong set of practical, social and emotional life skills;
-  a sense of personal achievement;
-  a sense of personal pride in themselves, their school and their community.

To achieve this, we will:

-  develop successful learners who are confident, inquisitive and independent;
-  create a culture of learning and discovery that is stimulating and enjoyable for both children and staff;
-  ensure our staff work together expertly and enthusiastically to deliver our curriculum in a safe, caring and positive environment.

School Staff

Headteacher: Mrs J Callaway Designated Safeguarding Lead
Deputy Headteacher: Mr M Ashton Y5 Form Tutor / Y5-6 Maths / VR/ SENCo

Teachers:
Mrs S Parkins Year 1 / Lower School Lead
Miss L Hardy Reception

Teaching Assistants:

Miss A Bennett
Mrs K Fleming
Mrs D McGregor
Mrs A Loughlin
Mrs A Roberts

Administration Staff:

Mrs A Evans School Business Manager / Headteacher's PA
Mrs V Ellsmoor Finance Co-ordinator
Mrs S Mollard Admin & Finance Assistant
Mrs L Rigby School Secretary

Catering Staff:

Mrs H Probert Catering Manager
Mr M Spence Kitchen Porter

Maintenance Staff:

Mr W Spence Site Manager
Mr M Spence Assistant Groundsman

Supervision Staff:

Mrs A Gardner Lunchtime Welfare Supervisor / After School Assistant
Mrs S McCabe Before & After School Supervisor /
Lunchtime Supervision
Mrs L Tottey Lunchtime Supervision

Peripatetic Staff:

Mrs Louise Jones Ballet
Miss Ravanne Hamer Drama
Mrs Gillian Evans Violin
Mrs Wendy Gordon Clarinet/Cello/Saxophone
Mrs Phyllida Milne Piano

Reception Class Staff

Miss Hardy is the Reception class teacher and she is assisted Miss Bennett.



Miss Hardy
Reception Teacher



Miss Bennett
Teaching Assistant



Mrs Parkins
Lower School Lead



Mrs Callaway
Headteacher

The Headteacher and designated safeguarding lead is Mrs Callaway.

Teaching and Learning

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework supports an integrated approach to early learning and care. It gives all professionals a set of common principles and commitments to deliver quality early education and childcare experiences to all children.

There are three prime areas of development and four specific areas which make up the Foundation Stage curriculum;

Prime Areas:

1. Personal, Social and Emotional development
2. Physical development
3. Communication and Language development

Specific Areas:

1. Literacy
2. Mathematics
3. Understanding the World
4. Expressive Arts and Design



Reading

Reading, along with writing, makes up literacy, one of the four specific areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). To be ready to start reading, children need to have a variety of skills in place. These early reading skills include matching, rhyming, awareness of phonics and the skills associated with language development such as listening, attention, alliteration and sound discrimination. Providing the children with these necessary **communication and language** skills is crucial to young children's overall development. Being able to speak clearly and process speech sounds, to understand others, to express ideas and interact with others are fundamental building blocks for a child's development. These early reading skills are supported by daily phonics sessions and reading with your child on a daily basis both individually or as part of a group. When your child is ready, they will take home a reading book in their book bag alongside a learning-tin which will contain things such as our sounds of the week, high frequency words and tricky words.



Writing

Children learn to write in the EYFS through a combination of adult-directed activities and child-initiated play. Alongside play, teachers will encourage children to begin to write through more formal activities. For example, they might draw a picture of a flower and be asked to label the parts or write their own version of a well-known story like Goldilocks.

Learning to write is a gradual process. At first, children's writing is just mark-making, but as time passes and they begin to learn the alphabet, they'll begin to make letter shapes, often starting with the letters in their name. This is an important part of the children's **Physical Development**. Through adult-directed activities, they will also pick up conventions like moving from left to right on the page, and from top to bottom.

As children begin to learn about phonics, their writing enters a new phase where they start to write letters, leading to words and captions before writing simple sentences.

By the end of Reception, most children will be writing independently, and writing clearly enough that you can read what they've written.



Mathematics

Mathematics is an important part of learning for all children in the early years and receiving a good grounding in maths is an essential life skill. As well as numeracy, it helps skills such as problem solving, understanding and using shapes and measure and developing their own spatial awareness. It helps them to recognise, create and describe patterns, which is essential for early problem solving skills.

All number work is approached through practical activities and various equipment is provided to aid understanding. Children begin with counting and matching activities, recognising, naming and ordering numerals. Children move on to recording numbers, concepts of more or less, addition and subtraction, doubles and halves. Activities include working with two and three dimensional shapes, exploring concepts of weight, shape, time and money. To consolidate the children's Mathematics learning each week, home-learning will be sent home linked to the specific topic.

Understanding of the World

Understanding the World (UW) is one of the four specific areas of learning in the EYFS framework. It involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology, and the environment. The children are provided with the opportunity to choose their own topics and decide what they would like to learn about. Lots of our topic work is used as a basis for assembly productions performed for the rest of the school.



Expressive Arts and Design



Expressive Arts and Design (EAD) involves supporting children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials, as well as providing opportunities and encouragement for sharing their thoughts, ideas, and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play, and design and technology.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Personal, social and emotional development (PSED) supports children to learn to socialise with others and make friends, understand and talk about feelings, learn about 'right' and 'wrong', develop independence and ultimately feel good about themselves. The children will be supported with their Personal, Social and Emotional development during everything they do here at Avalon, we will also focus on specific areas and topics during our weekly PSHCEE sessions.

Other subjects are taught by specialist teachers.

Assessment

Throughout the year on-going assessments and observations are used to build a picture of what each child has achieved, knows and can do. We carry out regular observations on EYLOG which is an EYFS compliant and secure online learning journey. It is an integrated web and tablet based secure application for providers to easily capture observations and manage the learning and development journey of a child in an electronic format. Parents can access their child's learning journey, daily diaries and reports on their mobile devices and computers/laptops through secure logins.

Parents are invited to attend meetings in the autumn and spring terms to share information and discuss progress. At the end of the year a Foundation Stage Profile is completed based on the information gathered over the year.

By the end of reception, we expect children to achieve the Early Learning Goal (ELG) as set out in the Early Years Framework. Please find the ELG'S for all seven areas attached on a separate sheet.

Home-learning

Although there is little formal homework provided at this stage, the children will be expected to read at home (both school reading books and library books) very soon. They will also receive the 'sounds of the week' alongside high frequency words and tricky words in their learning tins each week. As the year progresses, the children will receive Mathematics home-learning which will link to what they have been learning in school that week. Towards the end of the Reception year, children will begin to learn spellings if and when they are ready.



In September your child will need:

- Full winter uniform.
- Book bag and small tin for sounds/words.
- All items must be clearly named. Please use lower case letters where appropriate to aid recognition by the child.

PE Kit

Children come to school wearing PE kit on PE days. They leave their slip on pumps (black) or black trainers and white socks in their PE kits in school to change into.

We ask that every item in your child's PE kit should be clearly labelled with his or her name (not just their initial) in the following manner:

- Games shirt – inside and on the outside front left-handed side at 'pocket level'
- Games shorts/skirts – inside and on the outside bottom left hem, in line with the games shirt label
- White socks for PE (to be kept in PE bag)
- Jogging suit top – inside and under school badge
- Jogging suit bottoms – inside and on the outside level with the bottom of the pocket
- PE bags – bottom right hand corner or on label if provided

Normal Daily Routine

(Arrangements maybe subject to change due to the COVID-19 pandemic). Please contact the school office or see our [COVID-19 website page](#) for up to date details.

The Start of the Day

A member of staff will be on duty in the playground from 8.20am. There will not be a member of staff on duty before then so they should be accompanied by an adult or be booked into Before School Club. A bell is rung at 8.40am for the start of the school day. **Children should have arrived by this time, if they haven't they are marked as late.** If it is wet, the children should congregate in the main hall until collected to go to their classrooms. **Any children arriving after 8.40am must report to the office to sign in as they will need to be marked in the register.**

Morning Break

There is a morning playtime normally between 10.20-10.45am for all children from Reception to Year 6. Children will also be provided with a healthy snack and drink throughout the morning however, if you wish for them to have an additional drink of water, please bring in a clearly labelled bottle.

Lunch



Lunch is normally between 12 noon 1.10pm. We have a qualified catering manager who carefully plans our menus. Fruit, sandwiches and salad are always available in addition to the daily menu as is a vegetarian option. Medical or dietary requirements can be accommodated. Children are expected to wash their hands before eating, eat politely and to clear away their own plate. The children eat at a table

with other children in the school and staff are on duty to supervise the lunchtime session. After their lunch children may play outside and are under the supervision of our lunch time supervisors. When the weather doesn't permit playing outside, the children are supervised inside and can partake in various playtime activities.

End of the Day

School finishes at 3.05pm. Children should wait sensibly with their teacher to be collected by 3.10pm unless they are going to the After School Club or extra-curricular clubs. If they are not collected by this time they will be taken down to After School Club and an 'emergency booking' and a charge may be made. If there are not enough places available, you will be contacted and asked to collect them as soon as possible and your child will wait in the school office. Children attending after school clubs should go straight to the activity where a register will be taken. Children who are not able to attend a club should inform the teacher who runs it. If you need to collect your child for any reason before 3.05 pm they need 'signing out' at the school office. Children who are attending After School Club are escorted by teaching staff into the care of the After School Club staff.

Please ensure the school office and Form Teacher has the details of anybody who will be collecting your child other than yourself.

Parking

As with all schools, parking problems and congestion occur at dropping off and picking up times. We do not have any parent parking spaces within the school grounds. When parking near the school please be considerate to our neighbours and remember that 'double parking' and parking on the yellow lines (unless a blue badge holder) is not allowed. We ask for your support in ensuring these essential Health and Safety guidelines are followed and please ensure you pass the details on to anybody who may be dropping off or collecting your child/ren.

Wraparound Care

We provide a wraparound care service that enables your child to be safely looked after from 7.45am until 6pm if required.

-  Wraparound care accepts children from 7.45am. The children are offered a range of breakfast snacks and take part in a range of activities before being escorted to the playground;
-  Wraparound care accepts children from the end of the school day until 6pm. Children can take part in numerous activities. Refreshments are offered on arrival and a more substantial snack at approximately 4.30pm;
-  It is a requirement that all children are booked in prior to attending either wraparound care. Details have been sent out to all parents about this procedure;
-  All children must be registered directly with the schools Wraparound provision;
-  Spaces required by parents for their children must be pre-booked to ensure that wraparound care does not exceed the number of children we are permitted to accommodate;
-  If you use our Wraparound Care on a regular basis and wish to continue with this until further notice please complete your requirements on the *regular booking form*. If however, you use the Wraparound Care on a 'casual' basis you will need to the School Office of your requirements before 3pm on the day;
-  We cannot continue to guarantee that a place will automatically be available for your child if you are going to be late collecting them from school. For this type of emergency booking you must contact the school office or Wraparound Staff by telephone to see if there are any vacancies.

Before & After School Provision

Mobile Telephone Number: 07754692077

Extra-Curricular Activities

We offer a variety of activities to enhance your child's learning and enjoyment. Information about these clubs is sent out each half term / term. We try to find a balance between the number of clubs offered and allowing the children free time and staff time to prepare for the normal school curriculum. Please see Mr Ashton for further details. Additionally we have peripatetic teachers who run clubs for which

fees are charged. The times they are run may change for various reasons. Please see Mrs Keenan or Mr Ashton for further details.

Due to current COVID-19 restriction – extra-curricular clubs have been suspended until further notice.

Visits and Visitors

Visits to places of interest are undertaken as appropriate. We also invite various visitors to the school in order to enhance our curriculum. We notify you about any trips, and ask for permission for your child to attend trips that aren't local.

Behaviour

We want our children to feel part of a school community where the needs and opinions of all are respected and valued. We believe that if the children are to learn and grow, a climate of mutual respect and positive behaviour is essential.

It is a primary aim of our school that every member of the school community feels valued and respected, and that each person is treated fairly and well. We are a caring community, whose values are built on mutual trust and respect for all. The school behaviour policy is therefore designed to support the way in which all members of the school can live and work together in a supportive way. It aims to promote an environment where everyone feels happy, safe and secure.

The school has a number of school rules, but the primary aim of the behaviour policy is not a system to enforce rules. It is a means of promoting good relationships, so that people can work together with the common purpose of helping everyone to learn and be happy. This policy supports the school community in aiming to allow everyone to work together in an effective and considerate way.

The school expects every member of the school community to behave in a considerate way towards others. We treat all children fairly and apply this behaviour policy in a consistent way. This policy aims to help children to grow in a safe and secure environment, and to become positive, responsible and increasingly independent members of the school community.

The school rewards good behaviour, as it believes that this will develop an ethos of kindness and co-operation. This policy is designed to promote good behaviour, rather than merely deter antisocial behaviour.

Code of Behaviour

Children follow these Golden Rules and are expected to:

-  Be a learner and allow others to be learners;
-  Be respectful of everyone within our school;
-  Act sensibly in all areas of the school;
-  Follow instructions;
-  Take care of school, their own and other people's property;
-  Be on time for every lesson and activity;
-  Wear their uniform with pride.

Rewards

Rewards throughout the school are given in the following way:

-  Verbal praise;
-  Award of house points;
-  Award of a merit badge;
-  Golden Table invitation;
-  Visit to Headteacher;
-  Achievement Certificate / Headteacher Certificate.

House Points, Merit Badges and Certificates

House points, merit badges and certificates are given for endeavours that go “beyond the expected”. This may be for academic excellence, consideration and respect for others or other exceptional circumstances. If they are awarded for academic achievement, attainment must be relative to the individual pupil's ability.

Sanctions

In the event of unwanted behaviour, staff use their professional judgment about the incident and how best they might deal with it. Most incidents can be dealt with quickly and effectively using verbal correction, but occasionally, it may be necessary to take further action. Minor infringements are reported to the form tutor who will

then make a decision if it is necessary to proceed further. In certain circumstances, it may be necessary for an incident to be referred to the Headteacher or her deputy. In some cases, it may also be appropriate for the form tutor to speak to parents at the end of the day to discuss an incident that has occurred during that day.

- 🌀 We expect children to listen carefully to instructions in lessons. If they do not do so, we ask them either to move to a place nearer the teacher, or to sit on their own;
- 🌀 We expect children to try their best in all activities. If they do not do so, we may ask them to redo a task;
- 🌀 If a child is disruptive in class, the teacher will remind him or her of the expectations for behaviour. If a child misbehaves repeatedly, they may be moved away from others within the classroom until s/he calms down, and is in a position to work sensibly again with others;
- 🌀 The safety of the children is paramount in all situations. If a child's behaviour endangers the safety of others, the class teacher stops the activity and prevents the child from taking part for the rest of that session;
- 🌀 If a child threatens, hurts or bullies another pupil, the class teacher records the incident and the child will receive the appropriate sanction. If a child repeatedly acts in a way that disrupts or upsets others, the school contacts the child's parents and seeks an appointment in order to discuss the situation, with a view to correcting the unwanted behaviour;
- 🌀 We operate a Traffic Light system. If a child does not follow the Golden Rules they will be given a verbal warning initially. If the unwanted behaviour continues a child will be placed on the amber traffic light. Any further or more serious breaches of the school's code of conduct and Golden Rules will result in the child being placed on a red traffic light and the Headteacher will contact parents to discuss the matter, any action to be taken and how to move forward.

House System

Avalon operates a House system for the school:

- 🌀 To encourage an identity within the school community;



- 🌸 To promote family values and fundamental British values;
- 🌸 To provide an incentive for effort, consideration and caring for others.

The Houses are St. Andrew, St. David, St. George and St. Patrick.

House meetings are held each term and a range of inter-house activities are organised throughout the year.

Communication

- 🌸 If you wish to speak with your child's Form Teacher, they are usually available before or after school. If a lengthier discussion is required please make an appointment so that sufficient time can be made available to you;
- 🌸 A weekly newsletter is issued every Friday with information regarding the next week in school and any diary dates and/or important information for parents, **parents are asked to read this each week.** This is emailed home and is not printed unless specifically requested by the office;
- 🌸 Other information and letters are frequently sent home by e-mail or with the eldest sibling. These inform parents of current activities, forthcoming events, etc;
- 🌸 For school letters, including the weekly newsletter, our preferred method of communication is via email as this supports the school's eco-policy. It also helps to ensure letters don't get lost / left in school and is also easier from an administration point of view;
- 🌸 The homework diary can be used for communication between parents and teachers. Staff may make a note in the diary and parents are invited to comment or pass on information;
- 🌸 The school website, **www.avalon-school.co.uk**, is updated regularly with latest school news and events. The newsletters are also on the site along with other school information;
- 🌸 A 'family' Open Day is held during the year. The children will invite their parents (or any other family members) to come into school to look at their work and around the school in general; *Currently unavailable due to COVID-19 restrictions.*
- 🌸 Consultation evenings are held in the Autumn and Spring terms;

- ✿ Written Progress reports with pupil targets are sent home with the children towards the end of the Autumn and Spring terms, with a full end of year report sent home towards the end of the Summer term;
- ✿ Various school policies are available from the School Office and on the school website– if you would like a copy of these please ask or download them;
- ✿ Parents are also asked to **check the Parents' Board** outside the glass entrance, any changes to clubs, along with any last minute notices are posted on here.
- ✿ COVID-19 Arrangements Contact Email - Reception@avalon-school.co.uk
Telephone appointments are also available by prior arrangement.

Belongings and Appearance

- ✿ We expect the children to be proud of their appearance and at all times look as smart as possible;
- ✿ Please see the uniform list and policy for further information regarding the school uniform. We have periodic uniform checks in each class, to ensure children have the correct uniform. Please note all children should wear their blazers to and from school on a daily basis. They will also be required to wear them to some assemblies and other school events;
- ✿ **PLEASE, PLEASE** ensure all items of clothing and personal items are **CLEARLY NAMED (not just initials)**;
- ✿ Children should have the correct uniform in school each day, including their blazer;
- ✿ For health and safety reasons children should not wear **ANY** jewellery to school, this includes any ear-rings/studs and watches. Children will be asked to take out ear-rings should they arrive in school with them on;
- ✿ Long hair (boys and girls), must be tied and/or clipped back. Any hair bobbles/ribbons/clips should be either brown, yellow, white or black;
- ✿ It is our policy that all children wear correct sports kit when attending school, or when participating in a school-organised sports event outside normal school hours. Our policy is based on the notion that the PE kit is practical and the kit is designed with health and safety in mind. Trainers for PE should be sports trainers (not 'fashion' ones) as these are more supporting to growing children and their cushioned soles can minimise injury and associated pain. We also ask that trainers are predominantly black. Children, for health and safety

reasons, cannot participate in PE in school uniform or school shoes. Please see the uniform list for further details;

-  Failure to bring the correct kit without an explanation from the parent will result in a note home from school;
-  Nail varnish or transfer tattoos are not permitted;
-  You will be informed at the start of term by the Form Teacher of any specific items the children require to bring into school. This may be added to during the course of the year;
-  Items of value, including mp3 players and mobile phones are not to be brought in to school without prior agreement with your child's Form Teacher. Please see them to discuss this matter further;
-  Each child will have a "wet play" bag in which they can keep a number of activities such as colouring books, small board games or similar that they can use in the event of wet play;
-  It is hygienic and convenient for children to have a handkerchief or small packet of tissues in school with them;

Medical and Short Term Illnesses

If your child is unwell then they should be kept off school to aid their recovery and prevent the spread of infection.

The following are guidelines from the Health Protection Agency for common childhood illnesses but for more information or if you are unsure please contact your GP, Nurse or www.nhs.co.uk:

Rashes and skin infections

Infection or complaint	Recommended period to be kept away from Nursery or School
Athlete's foot	None
Chickenpox	Until all vesicles have crusted over
Cold sores	None
German measles	Four days from onset of rash
Hand, foot and mouth	None
Impetigo	Until lesions are crusted and healed or 48 hours after starting antibiotic treatment

Measles	Four days from onset of rash
Molluscum contagiosum	None
Ringworm	Exclusion not usually required.
Roseola	None
Scabies	Child can return after first treatment
Scarlet fever	Child can return 24 hours after starting appropriate antibiotic treatment
Slapped cheek	None once rash has developed
Shingles	Excluded only if rash is weeping and cannot be covered.
Warts and verrucae	None. Verrucae should be covered for PE

Diarrhoea and vomiting

Infection or complaint	Recommended period to be kept away from Nursery or School
Diarrhoea and/or vomiting	48 hours from last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting
E-Coli / Typhoid / Shigella	Child should be excluded for 48 hours from last episode of diarrhoea. Further exclusion may be required for some children until they are no longer excreting
Cryptosporidiosis	48 hours from last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting

Respiratory infections

Infection or complaint	Recommended period to be kept away from Nursery or School
Flu	Until recovered
Tuberculosis	Always consult GP
Whooping cough	Five days from starting antibiotic treatment, or 21 days from onset of illness if no antibiotic treatment

Other infections

Infection or complaint	Recommended period to be kept away from Nursery or School
Conjunctivitis	None
Diphtheria	Exclusion is essential. Consult GP
Glandular fever	None
Head lice	None

Hepatitis A	Exclude until seven days after onset of jaundice (or seven days after symptom onset if no jaundice)
Hepatitis B or C	None
Meningococcal meningitis / septicaemia	Until recovered
Meningitis due to other bacteria	Until recovered
Meningitis viral	None
MRSA	None
Mumps	Exclude child for five days after onset of swelling
Threadworm	None
Tonsillitis	None

If your child is feeling well enough to attend school but still requires some prescription/non-prescription medication then the following guidelines will help you decide if staff can assist in the dispensing of their medicine. Please note that staff are not required by law to dispense medicine and some may feel unable to do this. If this is the case you will be referred to the school medical co-ordinator who will hopefully be able to help.

The administration of medicines is carried out by the designated first aiders within the school office between the hours of 8.00am and 4.00pm.

COVID -19

If anyone becomes unwell with the symptoms of coronavirus, they will be sent home and advised to follow Public Health England's 'Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection'. [covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance](#).

If a pupil is awaiting collection, they will be moved to a room where they can be isolated and receive adult supervision, if required. Where possible, a window/door will be open for ventilation. The isolation room will be the medical room.

Where isolation is not possible, the pupil will be moved to an area which is at least two metres from anyone else.

Up to date information can be found on our school website [COVID-19 page](#).

Staff are required by our school policy to ask you the 5 following questions to determine whether it is safe for your child to be in school and if we can help with medication;

What is the medicine for?

This is to find out whether your child is contagious and should not be in school. Staff may need to refer to our Department of Health medical guidelines or the Medical Co-ordinator if they have any doubts.

Has the medicine been prescribed by your child's GP?

Prescription medicine can be given in school according to the directions of a doctor. Calpol/cough mixture etc can also be given, however only with written consent from the parent or verbal in the case of an emergency. The school will not give medication (prescription or non-prescription) to a child without a parent's written consent except in exceptional circumstances.

Is the medicine in the original container with the dose original instructions attached?

Medicine can only be given if stored in the original container; with the correct directions attached. This is the only proof staff have of the correct dosage to give your child and could prevent a serious error. When administering medication, eg pain relief, staff will check the maximum dosage and when the dose was previous given. Non prescribed medicines and over the counter medications (e.g. Calpol / Piriton) are consented by parents/carers as and when required either in writing using the consent form for the administering of medication or via verbal consent. Medicines will only be administered as per the instructions on the bottle.

Is this a 'three times a day' antibiotic?

If yes, then medical guidelines tell us that it is perfectly acceptable for the doses to be given before school, when collected and at bedtime. This eliminates the need for medicine to be administered at school which is always preferable. If your child attends our crèche facility then the after school dose can be given at school.

Is this medicine going to be required by the child long term?

This helps us to decide whether you need to complete a Medicine Permission and Health Care Plan form.

If, after these questions, we agree to give medicine then you will be asked to complete and sign a Medical Permission Form with the member of staff agreeing to dispense your child's medicine. This is so you can explain any special arrangements to them.

The medicine and form will then be stored safely (according to instructions) in a locked room. Your child will be given their medicine at the specified time and if they refuse to take a dose you will be notified by telephone. We are not permitted to force a child to take his/her medicine.

Medicine should be collected from and given directly to the member of staff who has agreed to dispense it each day. Please do not send medicine in with your child.

Unsecured medicine in a school bag is a health and safety risk not only for your child but for all of the children in our care.

Health Care Plans

Children with medical needs have the same rights of admission to a school or setting as other children. Most children will at some time have short-term medical needs, perhaps entailing finishing a course of medicine such as antibiotics. Some children however have longer term medical needs and may require medicines on a long-term basis to keep them well, for example children with well-controlled epilepsy or cystic fibrosis.

Most children with medical needs are able to attend school regularly and can take part in normal activities. However, staff may need to take extra care in supervising some activities to make sure that these children, and others, are not put at risk. An individual Health Care Plan can help staff identify the necessary safety measures to support children with medical needs.

At Avalon School we ask you to complete a Health Care Plan, and review it yearly, if your child has any ongoing medical issues. This enables all staff interacting with your child on a daily basis to support them. If regular medicine is required then a member of staff will be designated to dispense this. All of the forms will be explained to you and you may wish to have a more detailed discussion with the medical co-ordinator regarding your child's condition.

The storage and dispensing of medicines will be the same as for 'short term illnesses' outlined above although the medicine may remain in school for the whole term. It will be sent home for checking, updating, etc. over the main holidays. Any medicine uncollected at the end of a school year will be disposed of safely at a pharmacy.

Please remember you can always come into school to administer medicine yourself.

Holidays During Term Time

In line with national and LEA guidance, it is expected that family holidays will be arranged for the half termly and termly school holidays to ensure the children do not miss vital aspects of the curriculum. It is in the interest of all pupils that parents should not ask for time off school in term time, except in a real emergency. If required a request for leave of absence form should be made asked for from the School Office and handed in to Mrs Callaway well in advance and well before final arrangements or reservations have been made. Dependent on the nature of the request, authorisation of absence may then be given. Absence without a completed form will result in the child having an unauthorised absence.

School Events

School events include trips, subject days, discos and numerous sporting and performing arts events. We also put on a school performance each year; this is usually for children in Years 3-6. We hold an Achievement Awards Presentation in the Grosvenor Hall for the children years 3-6. The aim of this event is for the children, staff and parents to celebrate all that is good about Avalon and everything that has been achieved throughout the academic year. Awards are presented to some children (not everyone gets an award – we talk to the children about this prior to the event). All awards are based on overall performance in that area; this includes effort, progress, ability and attitude.

Financial and Administration Matters

The School Office is open from 8.30am until 4.00pm during term time and at various times during the school holidays. If on occasions we are unable to take a telephone call, please leave a message so we can call back as soon as possible. You can also contact the school office via email, schooloffice@avalon-school.co.uk. To help with our administration please ensure that Mrs Evans has your up to date contact details. If you need to discuss any financial matters please contact Mrs Evans. Any payments should be sent in to her, if you have any difficulties with payments please contact her as a matter of courtesy so the matter can be discussed and a solution found rather than fees having to be chased.

Complaints and Compliments

As parents, and customers, we very much value your opinion and we invite you to let us know any suggestions you may have for school improvement. Please inform us when the service we provide exceeds your expectations.

If you have any concerns please let us know straight away. If the matter is urgent and you wish to speak with a member of staff please come to the school office so that you can be signed in and the appropriate member of staff informed. We will respond immediately to your concern and seek to work together to resolve the matter as speedily as possible. If you feel the matter has not been resolved to your satisfaction you may obtain a copy of the complaints procedure from the school office.

The PTA

The PTA run various events for the children during the course of the year with the main objective being to provide the children fun activities they can enjoy as part of school life. Any money raised is donated back to school to purchase things that will

again benefit the children's fun in school, e.g. for activities outside the normal curriculum. Any parent (or other family member) is more than welcome to join and help would certainly be appreciated. Contact details are on the school website or please ask in the school office.

Board of Governors

The following is a current list of trustees of the charity that is Avalon School Education Trust.

Chairperson: Dr Katy Kidd
Ms Julie Yardley
Mr Philip Sheard
Mrs Heather Probert
Mrs Pat Johnstone
Mrs Deborah Hillman

The Chair of Governors can be contacted at all times via the school office (details below). The rest of the Governors can also be contacted via the school office.

School Telephone Number: 0151 625 6993

School Fax Number: 0151 625 0332

School Email Address: schooloffice@avalon-school.co.uk

Avalon School Charity number: 1088050

Company Number: 4050603

Company Address:
(School Address) 27 Caldy Road
West Kirby
Wirral
CH48 2HE

Contact Details

ISA (Independent Schools Association)

The organisation to which the Headteacher (on behalf of the School) belongs to. The ISA is federated to the ISC (Independent Schools Council).

Telephone Number: 01799 523 619

Email Address: www.isaschools.org.uk

ISI (Independent Schools Inspectorate)

The approved body for inspecting independent schools, our latest inspection report can be found on our website.

Telephone Number: 020 7600 0100

Email Address: www.isi.net

Finally

All information is correct at the current time, obviously changes do happen during the course of the school year, but you would be informed of these. We hope this information has been useful to you and will answer your queries, ensuring that you feel fully involved in our partnership, with your child's best interest at heart. If you have any further questions or queries about anything in this booklet please contact your child's Form Teacher.



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