

Heathcote Primary School



Managing Accidents in School Policy

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| Date adopted by Governors: | March 2023 |
| Date for policy review: | March 2025 |
| Person responsible for review: | Head Teacher |
| Signed by Chair of Governors | March 2023 |

Introduction

All schools have a Duty of Care to their children which essentially means that when any child attends school they have a legal right to be cared for, to be free from harm, safe and secure. Inevitably, in schools where there are often many hundreds of children learning and playing together in close proximity, there is the increased potential for a child, at some stage, to have an accident.

Schools are excellent organisations when it comes to reducing the likelihood of an accident occurring because the children are monitored closely, and the majority of their time is planned and organised in great detail. However, there are occasions during the day when the children are encouraged to make use of their time more independently and to learn to take more responsibility for their own safety and the safety of others. This time tends to be at playtime and at lunchtime and (for them) often forms the most enjoyable part of their school day.

In schools we cannot (and indeed it would be wrong for us to do so) organise and direct every minute of their time in school to reduce any possibility of them sustaining some form of injury. It is a very necessary part of a child's development to be able to learn to play independently, assess risks to themselves and to others and this policy sets out how the school might respond to a range of scenarios should a child sustain some form of injury.

Aims and Objectives

- To ensure that all children are treated appropriately and efficiently should they sustain some form of accident or injury in school
- To reassure parents that procedures in school are appropriately robust to deal with any accidents or injuries that might occur during the school day.
- To ensure that all staff know how to respond to accidents or injuries sustained during the school
- To ensure that the school meets its legal obligation to safeguard the safety of its pupils and staff in the event of an accident.
- To ensure that parents are notified appropriately should an accident occur in school that involves their child.
- To ensure that causes of accidents are followed up and necessary actions taken to avoid future incidents

Equal Opportunities

All children, staff, volunteers and parents/carers will be treated fairly and with respect at all times

Organisation

This school ensures that there are sufficient staff with a first aid qualification and have a minimum qualification of First Aid for Schools qualification and the number of staff with qualifications exceeds the minimum requirement. Senior first aiders are qualified in First Aid at Work, whilst Early Years and Forest School staff have Paediatric First Aid Qualifications. The qualifications are renewed every 3 years in order to ensure the latest good practice.

- A qualified First Aider or a designated member of staff will complete an initial assessment, identifying an appropriate course of action.
- A well-stocked first aid cupboard is kept adjacent to the school office. The first aid cupboard is checked regularly and re-stocked as required/used.
- First Aid boxes placed in different areas of the school are checked regularly.
- A child will be attended to by two first aiders or one first aider and another adult to ensure that a second opinion is sought and that Safeguarding guidelines are adhered to.
- All serious incidents and treatment are reported using the accident form (appendix) with date of incident, who involved, action taken, by whom and any follow up.

- Parents are contacted if there are any doubts over the health or welfare of a pupil.
- If a child appears to recover after an identified period of time, he or she may return to their classroom for the remainder of the day. Parents should be contacted at the end of the day informing them of the incident to ensure continuity of care for the child (phone, letter or face- to-face contact). If the children attend after school provision, then staff should be notified.
- If a child sustains an injury to the head this should be notified to parents/carers. An information letter should be provided to advise of the head injury, what time it occurred and to encourage observation of any signs of complications. Reporting formats are available in the main office and kept in the playground folders.
- If a child, returning to their classroom subsequently complains of feeling unwell or in pain again then a decision should be made by SLT to contact parents immediately and to arrange for collection and advised to seek medical advice at the doctor's or Accident and Emergency (A & E).
- In the event of a serious incident an ambulance is called and a member of staff accompanies the pupil to hospital and parents are asked to go immediately to the hospital. It may be appropriate to transport a pupil to hospital without using an ambulance. This should be on a voluntary basis and parents' permission sought. In such cases staff have specific cover from the Community Academies Trust (CAT) for 'Occasional Business Use'.
- Most fractures (except of fingers and toes) or serious injuries (as identified by the Health and Safety Executive) are reported to RIDDOR (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations) online by the Headteacher. Hard copies are kept in the accident folder.
- If staff are concerned about the welfare of a pupil they should contact the School Office immediately.
- If an injury has been sustained and a fracture / sprain is suspected, then the child should not be moved until an assessment has been made by a First Aider and further treatment sought.
- If a seizure is suspected, the area around the child should be cleared to prevent any injury and assistance from a First Aider and the Emergency Services (Ambulance) sought immediately.
- If a child with a known allergy has a reaction, medication should be collected and administered as specified in the HealthCare Plan and further advice sought if required.
- If a child appears to have an allergic reaction that is not recorded on their Medical Information, the school will contact the parent/carer and discuss an appropriate response. If the parent/carer cannot be contacted, the first aider will seek guidance from 111/Emergency Services. If someone is choking and it is mild, the person should be encouraged to cough to try to clear the blockage. It may be necessary to seek further help from a First Aider.
- If choking is severe, the person won't be able to speak, cry, cough or breathe, and without help they'll eventually become unconscious, so it is essential to seek further help from a First Aider. The choking person should be seen by a medical professional to check for any injuries or remaining obstructions.
- Staff should complete the accident book for employees if they sustain an injury at work. The book can be obtained from the School Office. An injured member of staff or other supervising adult should not continue to work if there is any possibility that further medical treatment is needed. The member of staff or other supervising adult concerned should seek

medical advice without delay.

- In the event of a more serious accident, an investigation will take place and where possible steps should be taken to prevent the same accident from re-occurring.
- Any accident caused by damaged furniture, equipment, fixtures and fittings should be reported to the appropriate person. In the first instance and until repair a clear safety notice should be displayed. In the case of portable equipment this should be removed from use until repaired.

Monitoring

According to the procedures outlined in the previous section, incidents will be recorded and monitored with outcomes reported to senior managers and periodically to Governors. Any trends or patterns that emerge will be subject to priority actions.

The policy will be reviewed every two years or sooner if it is felt that it requires immediate modification. See also:-Policy for Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions

Appendix

Minor Accident/Injury

During the day your child sustained a minor accident/injury at school and was examined by a member of staff

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| Name of child: <small>Capital letters</small> | Class: | Time of Injury: 8 9 10 11 (am) 12 1 2 3 4 5 (pm) | Date: |
|--|--------|---|-------|

Location of incident: playground/classroom/hall/corridor/other (circle)

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|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------|--|
| Nature of Injury: | | | |
| Bump/bruise | Head ache/temperature | Asthma | |
| Vomit/nausea | Head injury | Teeth | |
| Nose bleed | Cut Graze | Other: | |

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| Name of person examining child and completing form: |
| Details of treatment: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cold compress (ice pack wrapped in cloth) <input type="checkbox"/> Antiseptic wipe <input type="checkbox"/> Plaster <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| NB: Staff member: A child's records MUST be checked for any allergies or conditions prior to any treatment |

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|------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Parent contacted | Unable to contact parent | Well enough to be in school – no need to contact parent immediately |
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| The school is of the opinion that you should contact a doctor regarding this injury | Yes/No |
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| <p>NB: Head injury It is unusual for there to be any underlying problems if the person is conscious and there is no deep cut or severe head injury. It would be wise to continue to observe your child over the next few days. If any of the following occur, medical attention should be sought immediately:</p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> Increased drowsiness <input type="checkbox"/> Worsening headaches <input type="checkbox"/> Vomiting <input type="checkbox"/> Loss of use or weakness in arms and legs </p> <p>Drowsiness: After a knock to the head, children will often cry, be distressed and then settle down. It is common for them to want to sleep for a short while. This is normal, it will appear to be a usual peaceful sleep and they wake up after short nap.</p> <p>If the accident occurs before bedtime many parents are afraid to let the child go to sleep. Do let them. Drowsiness means they cannot be roused. If there is a concern, try waking them up after an hour or so. They may be grumpy but this is reassuring! They can be left to go to sleep again but wake them a couple of times during the night if there is particular concern.</p> <p>Headaches: It is only usually normal after a knock to the head to have a mild headache. Sometimes there is bruising or mild swelling over the scalp which is tender. Some Paracetamol (Calpol/Disprol) will help. If the headache seems to get considerably worse, there would be cause for concern.</p> <p>Other symptoms to be aware of are:</p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> Disturbance of vision or double vision <input type="checkbox"/> Sudden unconsciousness <input type="checkbox"/> Fainting or giddiness </p> |
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COPY TO BE RETAINED IN SCHOOL