

# St. Dominic's National School

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## School Accident/Injury Policy

### Introduction:

This policy was originally drafted in March 2010 as a response to newly enacted Health & Safety legislation. It was re-drafted in November 2016 by the whole school staff and this revised policy applies to all users of the school premises and all school related activities. A separate contract has been devised covering external agencies using the school premises outside of school hours.

### Rationale:

The formulation of this policy enables our school to effectively:

- Provide for the immediate needs and requirements of students who have sustained either a serious or a minor injury
- Ensure that adequate resources and arrangements are in place to deal with injuries/accidents as they arise
- Ensure lines of communication with parents/guardians are in place if required
- Activate a known plan of action with which all staff are familiar

### Roles and Responsibilities:

The overall responsibility for the day to day management of school supervision/routines rests with the Principal. The class teacher is responsible for classroom supervision and teachers on yard duty are directly responsible for the supervision of pupils at break time. The school Health and Safety representative is Katie Farrell. The Board of Management First Aid Officer is Colm McAuley. The Fire Drill coordinator is Josh White

### School Ethos:

This policy re-enforces the elements of the school mission statement which advocates providing a safe and secure learning environment for each child and ensuring a duty of care at all times when the school is in operation.

### Aims/Objectives:

- To ensure the physical safety and wellbeing of all staff and pupils
- To develop a framework of procedures whereby all injuries are dealt with in a competent and safe manner
- To provide training for staff with the effective use of outside expertise so that children have access to proper interventions
- To comply with all legislation relating to safety and welfare at work

## **Procedures:**

Safety of pupils and staff is a priority for the Board of Management, and robust measures have been put in place to ensure no children or staffs are put at risk:

- A comprehensive school Safety Statement has been recently revised whereby all hazards are identified and remedial measures are outlined
- The school is insured under Allianz Insurances and a 24 hour policy is available for all children
- The provision of specialist first aid training for staff has been identified as a priority by Board of Management
- Each classroom teacher regularly instructs his/her class on issues relating to safety in the class/yard. Dangerous practices such as climbing trees, climbing goalposts, throwing stones, running fast in the Infant areas, engaging in "horseplay", fighting etc. are subject to severe sanctions (see School Anti-Bullying and Discipline Policies)
- Certain procedures are in place in the event of accidents
- There are at least 3 teachers and 7 SNA's on yard duty at any one time (2016/2017 school year)

## **Minor Accident/Injury**

The injured party is initially looked after by the teacher/SNA on yard duty. If deemed necessary, the child will be taken to the 'first aid' area which is the hall. No medicines are administered but cuts are cleaned with anti-septic wipes and bandages/plasters applied if deemed appropriate. The use of plastic gloves is advised at all times. The accident is recorded in our first aid log and the class teacher informed.

When the injury is to the head, an ice-pack is immediately applied and parents are notified as a matter of protocol.

## **More Serious Accidents/Injuries**

If considered safe to do so, the injured party is taken to first aid. Parents/guardians are immediately informed, particularly if there is a suspicion of broken bones, serious head or eye injuries. The child is kept under intense observation until parents /guardians arrive, with the emphasis on making the child as comfortable and as settled as possible. Principal or deputy principal must be advised of incident. An accident report form must be completed.

## **Very Serious Injuries**

In the event of a very serious injury, parents/guardians are immediately contacted. If the considered opinion of the staff is that immediate professional help is required, an ambulance is called. On rare occasions the staff may agree that taking the child to Accident & Emergency in a private car is a more prudent option particularly in the case of rapid blood loss. Parents are kept informed of developing situations.

## **Categories of Injury/School Procedures**

### **Minor Cuts and Bruises**

#### **Method:**

- Clean around cuts using antiseptic wipe/cloth, cleaning from the centre outwards
- Gloves are used at all times to reduce risk of spread of infection
- A check is carried out to locate small bodies which may be embedded in the wound
- Plaster, gauze or lint is placed on the wound
- Teacher observation is maintained
- Children are advised to show/tell parents
- In sports, helmets must be worn

### **Sprains/Bruises**

**Method:**

- In the event of a sprain/bruise, the process of rest, ice, compress and elevate is implemented
- If in doubt, parent/s are contacted
- Teacher observation is maintained

**Faints and Shocks**

- Lie the casualty down
- Raise the legs above the level of the heart
- Pinch earlobe
- Loosen any tight clothing
- Ensure there is fresh air
- Keep crowds away
- Reassure casualty when they recover
- Contact parents
- The event is subsequently recorded in the Accident Book

**Severe Bleeding**

- Act instantly – Go, Go, Go!
- Set or lie the injured party down
- Press down on wound using gloves
- Lift (if possible) the injured part above the level of the heart
- Put a clean dressing over the wound and secure it firmly with a bandage
- If blood shows through the dressing then place another one over the first and bandage firmly
- Treat for shock
- **GET HELP!**
- Contact parents
- If very serious contact casualty immediately
- Record in accident book

**Burns/Scalds**

- Immediately remove child from danger area
- Cool burnt area with cold running water
- Remove rings etc. and other tight fitting accessories
- Do not remove objects stuck to skin
- In the event of a minor burn use a special burn gauze/burneze

**Unconsciousness**

- Ring for medical help
- Place child in recovery position
- Ring for parents
- Check for broken bones, neck or back injury
- If subject is not breathing, artificial respiration is applied
- Other children are kept away

**Stings/Bites**

- Vinegar is used for wasp stings
- Bread soda is used for bee stings
- If case is serious, parent/s are contacted

The First Aid Policy is based on collective teacher input. The teacher on yard duty is automatically assisted by others in the case of a serious injury.

**Resources:**

The main location for first aid supplies is the first aid-room/kitchen off the hall. Every class teacher has an additional supply of first aid equipment. All staff are aware of these locations. The contents of such boxes are replenished when deemed necessary by the Health and Safety Officer Katie Farrell.

**Record Keeping:**

Serious accidents/injuries are recorded in the Accident Report Book, which is located in the principal's office. Records of accidents lists date and time of accident, witnesses, nature of injuries, a brief description of the circumstance of the accident, procedures followed by staff etc. Very serious injuries will be notified to the schools insurers - Special Incident Report Form. Relevant medical information on all pupils is obtained at time of enrolment. This section asks parents to list allergies and other medical conditions their child may have.

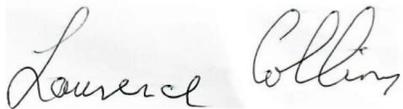
**Evaluation:**

The success of this policy is measured from set criteria;

- Maintaining a relatively accident free school environment
- Positive feedback from staff, parents, children
- Continual yard observation of behaviour by all staff engaged in supervision duties
- Monitoring and evaluation at staff meetings

**Ratification:**

This revised policy was ratified by the Board of Management on: 25th April 2018



Chairperson, Board of Management



Principal