

FIRST AID POLICY

PURPOSE

William Ruthven Primary School has a responsibility to provide equitable access to education and respond to diverse student needs, including health care needs. All children have the right to feel safe and well, and know that they will be attended to with due care when in need of first aid.

At any one time, a student can have a health condition or care need that could impact on their attendance and participation within school. This can require short or long-term first aid planning, supervision for safety, routine health and personal care support and occasionally complex medical care needs.

AIMS

- To administer first aid, and provide appropriate treatment for children when in need in a competent and timely manner.
- To provide a safe environment to minimise injuries to students.
- To ensure proper care, including pastoral care of injured students.
- To maintain a sufficient number of staff members trained with a Level 2 first aid certificate.

IMPLEMENTATION

This policy should be read with William Ruthven Primary School's *Medication policy, Health Care Needs policy, Care Arrangements for Ill Students policy, Anaphylaxis policy, Asthma policy and Accidents and Incidents Reporting policy.*

- All injuries to students must be assessed and attended to in a timely manner.
- All children who receive first aid treatment will have the illness/injury documented by the teacher providing first aid, indicating the nature of the injury, any treatment given, and the name of the teacher providing the first aid. For any serious injuries/illnesses, the administration staff must contact the parents/carers so that professional treatment may be organised.
- Any injuries to a child's head, face, neck or back must be reported to parents/carers and requires separate documentation which is sent home with the student.
- A first aid room and first aid kits will be available for use at all times. An appropriate supply of basic first aid materials will be stored in a cupboard in the first aid room. Regular checks and restocking of the first aid supplies will be conducted by the First Aid Coordinator. All staff are responsible for reporting low stocks or out of date stock that has come to their attention to the Co-ordinator to assist in this process.
- Copies of asthma and anaphylaxis management plans and associated medications are provided by parents/carers and are to be kept in the first aid room. Unless a specific asthma management plan has been provided for the child, their asthma will be managed according to the *Victorian Schools Asthma Policy for Asthma First Aid* (see Asthma Policy).
- First Aid kits containing approved items will be taken on all excursions, camps and sporting events off site. All kits are to include Ventolin. On an out-of-school excursion, the teacher in charge will ensure that any student with an allergy has their anaphylaxis kit collected from the first aid room.
- All staff will be provided with professional development on basic first aid management skills on an annual basis, where possible. An appropriate number of staff (including at least 1 administration staff member) will be trained to Level 2 First Aid certificate and with up-to-date CPR qualifications.
- All school camps will have at least one Level 2 First Aid trained staff member in attendance.

- Supervision of the first aid room and supervision of the yard will be part of the weekly duty timetable located in the staffroom. Any children in the first aid room will be supervised by a staff member at all times. Children should not be in the first aid room unless receiving treatment/being supervised.
- All injuries that occur during class time will be referred to the administration staff who will manage the incident. All injuries that occur during recess or lunch breaks will be referred to the teacher on yard duty first for initial assessment, before being referred to the staff member on first aid duty.
- Where necessary, a handover procedure will occur to the classroom teacher, specialist teacher or office staff.
- No child will be left unsupervised in the first aid room after recess or lunchtime breaks.
- An up-to-date confidential register located in the first aid room will be kept of all injuries or illnesses experienced by children who require first aid.
- For the safety of staff and students and to minimize cross-contamination, all staff will be provided with knowledge of basic biohazard management skills, (for vomit and blood spills) including knowledge of where bio-waste absorbent powder and protective disposable gloves are stored and available for use in the first aid room.
- Any children with injuries involving blood must have the wound covered at all times.
- Children with minor injuries will be treated by staff members on yard duty and/or first aid duty first, whilst more serious injuries, including those requiring parents to be notified or where it is suspected that treatment by a doctor is required - a level 2 first aid trained staff member should provide first aid.
- No medication, including headache tablets or alternative medicines, will be administered to children without the express written permission of parents or carers. Parents can download the Distribution of Medications Policy which includes a medication administration form from the school web page or collect a form from the office to fill out.
- There are 5 Rs to take into consideration when handling and administering medication for students: Right medication, Right person, Right amount/dosage, Right times for administering and Right expiry date on medication
- A member of staff is to be appointed First Aid Co-ordinator. The Co-ordinator will be responsible for the purchase and maintenance of first aid supplies, checking and restocking yard duty bum bags contents, ice packs and their covers, the portable first aid kits, and the general upkeep of the first aid room.
- The location of all incidents resulting in serious injuries must be recorded by the staff member in attendance, to enable potentially unsafe areas or equipment to be identified within the school. Any potentially dangerous areas or equipment are to be recorded in the hazard register whether or not an injury has occurred. Serious accidents or injuries are to be investigated by the Principal or delegate. This may result in modifications to a work or play area.
- Serious injuries, fatalities, or any incident that exposed a person to immediate risk to their health or safety must be reported to the Region and DET Emergency and Security Management Branch immediately on (03) 9589 6266 and reference should be made to the school's *Critical Incident Plan*.
- The Principal must ensure the School Council President is informed of serious injuries suffered by student (e.g. broken bones, sutures, ambulance required, hospitalisation, etc.).
- Parents have a duty of care not to send ill children to school and to notify the school of any medical condition applicable to their child that staff may be required to deal with.
- At the commencement of each year, requests for updated first aid information will be sent home including requests for any asthma, diabetes and anaphylaxis management plans, high priority medical forms, and reminders to parents of the policies and practices used by the school to manage first aid, illnesses and medications throughout the year.

Further information and resources

- Department of Education and Training's School Policy Advisory Guide: [First aid and Medical emergencies](#).

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated in October 2019 and is scheduled for review in October 2023.