

Ardfinnan National School, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary.



School Accident/Injury Policy

Introduction:

This policy was originally drafted as a response to newly enacted Health & Safety legislation by the whole school staff and this policy applies to all users of the school premises and all school related activities.

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 schools Health and Safety Officer is Mrs. Celine Ryan who is also the First Aid Officer and Fire Drill co-ordinator.

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 well being 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.

Minor Accident/Injury:

The injured party is initially looked after by the teacher on yard duty. If deemed necessary, the child will be taken to the 'sick bay' which is the area outside the staff room. No medicines are administered but cuts are cleaned with antiseptic wipes and bandages/plasters applied if deemed appropriate. The use of plastic gloves is advised at all times. Parents are notified as a matter of protocol.

More Serious Accidents/Injuries:

If considered safe to do so, the injured party is taken to the sick bay.

Parents/guardians are immediately informed, particularly if there is a suspicion of broken bones/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.

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:

In all cases of injury it is understood that there is at least one teacher on yard duty.

- Clean around cuts using antiseptic wipe/cloth, cleaning from the centre outwards
- Gloves are used at all times to reduce the 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, parents/guardians are contacted
- Teacher observation is maintained.

Faints and Shocks

- Lie the casualty down

- Raise the legs above the level of the heart
- Loosen any tight clothing
- Ensure there is fresh air
- Keep crowds away
- Reassure casualty when they recover
- Contact parents/guardians
- 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/guardians
- 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/guardians
- 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, parents/guardians 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:

Two first aid boxes are located in strategic areas of the school. All staff are aware of these locations. The contents of such boxes are replenished when deemed necessary by the Health and Safety Officer or some other designated staff member.

3 first aid kits are on the yard during break times. All staff are aware of who has these kits.

A first aid bag is available for matches and other out of school activities.

Record Keeping:

All accidents/injuries are recorded in the Accident Report Book which is located in the staff room. One Accident Report Book covers all children in the school.

Teachers are encouraged to keep a separate copy of accident report forms relating to injuries sustained by children in their class. The accident report form lists date and time of 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/guardians 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/guardians, 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.

Tracy Kerry 1.5.12