

Hollybrook Junior School

Possible Bones Breakages

General protocol guidance:

- Parents will be informed immediately if the school suspects that a pupil has a break or fracture.
- The parents will be urged to collect their child immediately and seek medical advice.
- The school will ensure a child is taken to hospital either by ambulance, or car accompanied by a qualified first aider, in cases where there is any serious doubt or concern about their condition and the parents are unable to come into school immediately.
- The school will ensure a child who is sent to hospital by ambulance is either:
 - ✓ Accompanied in the ambulance by a member of staff to act in loco parentis if a relative cannot be contacted. The First Aider need not be the member of staff to accompany the casualty to hospital.
 - ✓ Met at hospital by a relative.
- In the case of serious injury first aiders will not allow pupils to eat in case surgery is needed.

The school recognises the following signs can indicate that a bone is broken:

- The pupil or another pupil/adult heard a snap or a grinding noise during the injury.
- There's swelling, bruising, or tenderness around the injured part.
- It's painful for the child to bear weight on the injury, touch it, press on it, or move it.
- The injured part looks deformed. In severe breaks, the broken bone may be poking through the skin.

A child will not be moved, and an ambulance will be called if:

- A pupil may have seriously injured their head, neck, or back.
- The broken bone comes through the skin. Constant pressure with a clean gauze pad or thick cloth will be applied and the child will be kept lying down until help arrives.

For less serious injuries, the following steps will be followed:

- If appropriate, clothing will be removed from the injured body area.
- First aiders will not force a limb out of the clothing though. They may need to cut clothing off with scissors to prevent causing a child any unnecessary additional pain.
- A cold compress/ice pack wrapped in cloth or paper towel will be applied to the injured area for 20-30 minutes. Whilst receiving this treatment the pupil will be given the opportunity to rest in the medical room. The first aider will remain with/near the child should their wellbeing deteriorate and urgent medical assistance is required.
- Where necessary, a makeshift splint or sling will be used.

- The first aider will continue to look for possible signs of a breakage throughout the stages of assessment and treatment.
- After the initial cold compress treatment the first aider will decide whether to:
 - a) Inform parents that they should collect their child if it is evident that the pupil displays possible signs of a break and medical advice is needed.
 - b) Apply another cold compress if the pupil is still uncomfortable but shows no obvious signs of a break i.e. no swelling, no bruising, no obvious deformity or excessive pain/discomfort. After two treatments of a cold compress the first aider will decide whether no further medical treatment is required or whether the parents should collect their child for medical examination.
 - c) Send the child back to class with no further medical treatment
- When a seemingly well pupil returns to class they will be advised to speak to their teacher or return to the school office if they begin to feel more unwell or experience more pain.
- The first aider will advise the pupil's teacher of the circumstances of the accident/injury and will be asked to monitor the child until the end of the school day.
- As a precaution a first aider will reassess the injured pupil after one hour to check for any change to their condition, paying particular attention to:
 - a) Increased discomfort
 - b) Reduced movement/mobility
 - c) Increased swelling
 - d) Any obvious deformity
- In all cases the first aider will keep a record of the pupil attended to, the nature of the injury/accident and the treatment given in the school office. They will also record the time and location of the accident.
- Where necessary the first aider will seek information from pupils who witnessed the incident or supervising adults
- In cases of a serious accident a member of the SLT will be informed immediately.
- In instances of no apparent serious injury the child will be given a note to advise their parents that they have sustained an injury in school and will provide brief details of the circumstances pertaining. In some cases the school will phone parents at the time of injury.
- When in any doubt of the extent of injury parents will be informed immediately by phone that they should collect their child and see medical advice