



DURHAM CATHEDRAL SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

FIRST AID AND HEALTHCARE POLICY

1. Policy Aims

- 1.1 Durham Cathedral Schools Foundation (DCSF) recognises the importance of timely and competent treatment in the event of illness or accident, and this Policy sets out the actions to be taken should an accident or illness occur to anyone on DCSF premises. This Policy applies to Durham School, both day and boarding, and the Chorister school, Cathedral site and Bow site, including our Early Years Foundation Stage.
- 1.2 Staff are encouraged to undertake first aid training and the number of staff trained is in excess of statutory minimum numbers. First aid training is made available to pupils through the activities, LWE and co-curricular programmes.
- 1.3 This Policy is a framework to facilitate the care of a sick or injured child whilst in the care of DCSF as a day pupil or boarder. The procedures in the appendices outline the steps which will be taken, and the support which will be provided to those pupils who are sick or injured at school. See *Appendix 3*.
- 1.4 DCSF commits in this Policy to observing the principles of the Equality Act 2010 and does not discriminate on any grounds.

2. Medical Provision

- 2.1 The Medical Centre is located on Durham School site and is staffed by Registered General Nurses and a Registered Paediatric Nurse from 8.30am–4.30pm Monday to Friday during term time. Pupils are treated on a drop-in basis as necessary during these hours.
- 2.2 Accidents and emergencies are dealt with immediately, and parents/guardians are informed as soon as practically possible.
- 2.3 New pupils and staff are given information about the Medical Centre as part of their induction into DCSF. Parents/guardians must complete a medical questionnaire prior to a pupil's entry into DCSF. The questionnaire outlines significant past medical problems, current ailments and present treatment, as

well as known allergies, and the dates of all immunisations. This information is essential for the School Nurses when dealing with pupils.

2.4 For all boarding pupils registered with the local practice, the School Nurses liaise with the General Practitioner (GP) and parents/guardians to ensure timely completion of health questionnaires, medical registration checks, immunisation and vaccination programmes and medical follow-ups for pupils.

2.5 The School Nurses hold current Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) registration. Statutory and mandatory training is undertaken to ensure registration compliance, and re-registration is carried out annually. Confirmation of registration is held on file by DCSF.

2.6 Medical Advice

Boarding pupils are registered with a local doctor and medical care is provided to all pupils registered. Pupils who are not registered will be encouraged to visit their own doctor as medical records will be held at that medical practice. Pupils not registered may be seen as a temporary patient at the discretion of the GP. Consultations with the GP are private and no explanation needs to be given to the nursing or teaching staff. Emergency out of hours medical services are provided by the University Hospital of North Durham (UHND).

Where appropriate for boarders, referrals are made to local dental and ophthalmic services.

3 First Aid Training & Staffing

3.1 In addition to the three Registered Nurses employed by DCSF, DCSF ensures that an appropriate number of staff are trained in first aid, are on site whenever pupils are, and accompany pupils on trips. As a minimum, there will always be at least one such member of staff on a trip; in practice, however, there will often be many more. First aid training is delivered both internally and by external providers, with all courses approved by the HSE; in addition, specialist lifeguard training is delivered by an external provider. For a list of all staff currently trained in first aid, see *Appendix 1*.

3.2 In the EYFS, most staff are trained in paediatric first aid and a minimum of one member of staff, trained in paediatric first aid, is on site when pupils are present.

4. Procedure

4.1 Parents/guardians will be informed of any accident or injury on the same day or as soon as reasonably practicable by a Medical Tracker notification, and, if appropriate by:

- EYFS staff in the EYFS setting;
- the School Secretary for Year 1 and 2 pupils at Chorister School, Bow site;
- the School Secretary at Chorister School, Cathedral site; and

- Medical Centre staff at Durham School.

Following any accidents, staff complete an accident report, and records are kept until the child reaches the age of 25.

- 4.2 Resident staff, including Matrons in Boarding Houses, provide evening and overnight first aid cover. These staff have recourse to local hospital accident and emergency, out of hours GP services and emergency services. Pupils who suffer an accident requiring assessment at A&E should be accompanied by a Matron or another responsible adult.
- 4.3 Pupils who are unwell or have sustained an injury will remain in the care of:
- EYFS staff in the EYFS setting;
 - Reception for Year 1 and Year 2 pupils at Chorister School, Bow site;
 - Reception at Chorister School, Cathedral site;
 - the Medical Centre at Durham School
- for as long as necessary for observation and further action if appropriate.
- 4.4 The Medical Centre staff arrange for non-urgent boarding pupil cases to see local GPs; however, if the issue is serious and/or life-threatening then the emergency services must be contacted.
- 4.5 Emergency contact numbers for medical occurrences and procedures to follow are published in Houses, Departments, and Offices as well as electronically within DCSF.
- 4.6 For pupils with particular health care needs such as asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, mental health and specific disabilities, individual healthcare plans are formulated by the nurse, together with the pupil and parents, to identify the strategies and processes necessary to support and manage the health care needs of the pupil in school to help maximise the amount of time safely spent in the learning environment. Care plans and training in relation to specific conditions are made available to all staff.
- 4.7 Staff administer medicines with written parental approval. Specific instruction and training are also provided for non-nursing staff before they are required to administer medicines or assist with the administration of medicines. See *Appendix 5*.
- 4.8 First aid provision for sports fixtures is provided through a combination of internal staffing and external agencies, e.g., St John's Ambulance.
- 4.9 First aid kits are located throughout DCSF and, in addition, are available in all DCSF vehicles. These are accessible at all times with appropriate content for use with children. Responsibility for the monitoring of the first aid kits is delegated to key staff, and contents are routinely checked. See *Appendix 2* and *Content of First Aid Kits* at T:\School Areas\Medical\Public\First Aid.

- 4.10 DCSF has four defibrillators, which are located outside the staffroom at Bow site, in the Reception area at Cathedral site, in the entrance to The Budworth Building and in the Orangery / café at Durham School. See *Appendix 4* for the procedure on use of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED).
- 4.11 DCSF has a protocol for use of emergency salbutamol inhalers, see T:\School Areas\Medical\Public\Asthma\Emergency Inhaler. Emergency inhalers are kept centrally at Bow site and Cathedral site, as well as in all Boarding Houses, the Medical Centre, the Boat House, and in the Budworth Building at Durham School.

5. Records

- 5.1 The School Nurses produce and maintain up-to-date nursing records, predominantly computer based although some written records are kept. All records are stored separately from House records and pupils' files.

School Medical records are confidential and access is restricted to nursing staff. Computer based records are password protected. Whilst the Principal and other senior staff have a responsibility to ensure that records are maintained, any personal or sensitive information given in confidence to the School Nurses is not shared with non-medical staff.

NHS records for boarders, as well as for day pupils registered with the GP, are maintained by the GP. The nurses can liaise with the GP as required and appropriate.

- 5.2 In the Chorister School, Bow site (including EYFS), minor accident reports, including any head injuries, are completed at the time of injury; a notification is sent home to parents via Medical Tracker, and a record is kept on the school medical records system which the School Nurses monitor.
- 5.3 In the Chorister School, Bow site (including EYFS), serious accidents are recorded on Medical Tracker, and parents are duly notified.
- 5.4 All pupils, staff or visitors who attend the Medical Centre at Durham School are entered in the daily record book; pupil visits are also recorded on the school medical software system. Serious injuries are recorded on Medical Tracker and may be entered in the Accident Book. This is reviewed at the Health, Safety and Welfare Committee meeting termly in order to determine patterns which may cause concern.

6. Reporting

- 6.1 Any serious accident, illness or injury to, or death of any child will be notified to Ofsted along with details of action taken. Notification will be made as soon as reasonably practicable, but in any event within 14 days of the incident occurring.

- 6.2 DCSF complies with the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR) and notifies the HSE of any major or fatal incidents without delay.
- 6.3 Local child protection agencies will also be notified of any serious accident or injury to, or the death of, any child while in DCSF's care and DCSF will act on any advice from these agencies.

7. Arrangements for Pupils with Medical Conditions

- 7.1 Prior to admission to DCSF, parents are required to complete a medical questionnaire detailing any pre-existing medical conditions. On receipt of this, the Medical Centre will make direct contact with the parents of the child to discuss the condition and what support will be made available.
- 7.2 In turn, this information will be used to inform the care plans for those pupils with medical conditions such as asthma, epilepsy, diabetes, anaphylaxis, etc. Given the range of conditions, such care plans are individual and particular to the pupil.
- 7.3 The contents of care plans are communicated to Chorister School staff (including EYFS staff) and to House staff at Durham School in detail, and in summary to the wider staff.
- 7.4 Where conditions come to light following admission, parents are asked to contact the Medical Centre to discuss the creation of a care plan; staff are made aware of their responsibility to ask parents to do this when they receive such information.
- 7.5 Any pupil returning to DCSF on crutches following an injury must satisfy the Medical Centre that appropriate training on the use of crutches has been completed, and that the pupil is able to move around the appropriate school site.

8. Staff Health Conditions and Medications

- 8.1 All staff and volunteers are asked to inform DCSF of any health conditions which may affect their ability to perform their duties properly and which would affect their ability to safeguard the children in their care.
- 8.2 If staff or volunteers are taking any medication, or under the influence of any other substance which may affect their ability to care for children, they should make this known to DCSF.
- 8.3 If medical advice confirms that such medication is unlikely to impair that staff member's/volunteer's ability to look after children properly, they may continue to work directly with children.

8.4 Staff medication on the premises must be securely stored, and out of reach of children, at all times.

9. Links to other policies and documents

This policy is linked to the following:

- Accidents and Incidents Policy
- Intimate Care Policy
- EYFS Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Educational Visits Policy
- Staff and Volunteer Code of Conduct

10. Oversight

Oversight of this First Aid and Healthcare Policy is undertaken by the Health, Safety and Welfare Committee. The Policy will be reviewed by the Senior School Nurse annually.

Policy last reviewed by

Claire Hodge, Senior School Nurse on 13th February 2025

Claire Hodge, Senior School Nurse on 16th February 2024

Aisling Dutton, School Nurse on 30th September 2022

Policy written and reviewed October 2015