



## MEDICAL EMERGENCIES POLICY

### Rationale

- A situation that may be defined as a medical emergency includes loss of consciousness even briefly, serious bleeding, broken bones or an asthma attack that does not respond to medication.
- The school must act immediately, with or without parental/carer consent or if the parent/carer or the child's designated emergency contact delays collecting the child.

### Purpose

- To ensure Footscray North Primary School responds appropriately to emergency medical situations.
- To ensure the school complies with DET policy and guidelines.
- To ensure the school complies with Child Safe Standards 1, 2 & 6.

### Implementation

- The safety and wellbeing of children is this school's highest priority.
- In an emergency situation staff firstly will render first aid and make the injured person as comfortable as possible.
- Staff are expected to be familiar with the school's emergency procedures including those related to excursions.
- Other staff will immediately contact emergency medical services by calling 000 and requesting an ambulance.
- In such a situation, staff will take this action without waiting for parent/carer consent (if the incident relates to a child). Delays in these circumstances could compromise safety.
- Once the action has been taken, staff will notify parents/carers or the child's emergency contact and then the DET's Security Services Unit on (03) 9589 6266.
- Staff providing first aid may assess that an emergency response is not required, but medical advice is needed e.g. a child receives a blow to the head but there is no sign of concussion. In these circumstances, the school should ask the parent/carer or emergency contact person to collect the child and recommend that advice is sought from a medical practitioner.
- If the child's health and safety starts to deteriorate an emergency situation should be declared.
- If a child has a Not-For-Resuscitation (NFR) order as part of his/her palliative care to manage a deteriorating and life-threatening condition, the first aid response must be documented in the Health Support Plan. In such circumstances, the school will immediately contact an ambulance.

Note: It is not the role of the school or staff to make a decision about medical prognosis or determine whether the point of the Not-For-Resuscitation order has been reached.

- On the rare occasion that a staff member has to transport a child to emergency care (such as when an ambulance is not available), at least two adults should accompany the child to ensure the driver is not distracted and the child can be constantly supervised.
- As outlined in the First Aid Policy, upon the Principal's discretion and provided alternative supervision for remaining children can be arranged, a staff member may accompany a child transported by emergency services when one or more of the following applies:
  - a parent/carer or emergency contact person cannot do so
  - the age or development of the child justifies it
  - the child chooses to be accompanied
- Please refer also to the *First Aid Policy*, the *Emergency & Critical Incidents Policy*, the *Emergency & Incident Reporting Policy*, the *Accident Reporting Policy* and the Child Safe Standards.

### Evaluation

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle or if guidelines change (latest DET update early July 2017).

This policy was ratified by School Council 25/3/2019

Reference:

[www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/management/pages/medical.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/management/pages/medical.aspx)