HOLYWELL CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

First Aid Policy

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As a Church of England School, all of our policies at Holywell are rooted in our distinctively Christian character and our core beliefs which are Gospel inspired and which support the school's Vision: At Holywell, our vision is that everyone in our community chooses to "Live Life in all its Fullness" (John 10:10).

Inspired by the teaching of Jesus, the Good Shepherd,

we choose

to live our values,

being the best we can be

in community."

As a school, we are guided by 'Live life in all its fullness' (John 10:10). We encourage everyone in our community to make the right choices, to follow the teachings of Jesus, to be committed to keeping each other safe, to keep the focus on learning and to be peaceful problem-solvers. The rationale for first aid At Holywell School builds upon our statutory requirements by anchoring physical care within biblical principles of stewardship, hospitality, and community. Providing immediate comfort and medical attention ensures that children feel safe, valued, and loved during moments of vulnerability. Christian theology holds that life is a sacred gift from God. The ultimate purpose of first aid—to preserve life, prevent condition worsening, and promote recovery—aligns directly with honoring and protecting that gift.

"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." — *Galatians 6:2*

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Statement of intent

Holywell School is committed to providing emergency first aid provision in order to deal with accidents and incidents affecting staff, students and visitors. The arrangements within this policy are based on the results of a suitable and sufficient risk assessment carried out by the school in regard to all staff, students and visitors.

The school will take every reasonable precaution to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all staff, students and visitors.

This policy aims to:

- Ensure that the school has adequate, safe and effective first aid provision for every student, member of staff and visitor to be well looked after in the event of any illness, accident or injury, no matter how major or minor.
- Ensure that staff and students are aware of the procedures in the event of any illness, accident or injury.
- Ensure that medicines are only administered at the school when express permission has been granted for this.
- Ensure that all medicines are appropriately stored.
- Promote effective infection control.

Nothing in this policy will affect the ability of any person to contact the emergency services in the event of a medical emergency. For the avoidance of doubt, staff should dial 999 in the event of a medical emergency before implementing the terms of this policy and make clear arrangements for liaison with ambulance services on the school site.

Definition and background

Definition

For the purposes of this policy the school will follow the definition of First Aid outlined below, from Wirral NHS Foundation Trust:

“First aid is the assistance given to any person suffering a sudden illness or injury, with care provided to preserve life, prevent the condition from worsening, and/or promote recovery. It includes initial intervention in a serious condition prior to professional medical help being available, such as performing CPR while awaiting an ambulance, as well as the complete treatment of minor conditions, such as applying a plaster to a cut. First aid is generally performed by the layperson, with many people trained in providing basic levels of first aid, and others willing to do so from acquired knowledge.”

Background

Under the Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981, employers are responsible for providing adequate and appropriate equipment, facilities and personnel to ensure their employees receive immediate attention if they are injured or taken ill at work. The

regulations require employers to provide adequate and appropriate equipment, facilities and personnel based on a first aid needs assessment.

Although the regulations do not require employers to provide first aid for anyone other than their own employees, the DfE strongly recommends that all schools consider the needs of non-employees such as pupils and visitors when making provision for first aid, and that First Aid provision must be available:

- While people are on school premises.
- When staff and pupils are working elsewhere on school activities, including any off-site activity such as educational visits.

1. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to legislation and statutory guidance, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- The Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981
- The Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986
- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 2013
- DfE 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions and allergy'
- DfE (2022) 'First aid in schools, early years and further education'
- DfE (2023) 'Early years foundation stage (EYFS) statutory framework'
- DfE (2023) 'Automated external defibrillators (AEDs): a guide for maintained schools and academies'

The policy is implemented in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Health and Safety Policy
- Administering Medication Policy
- Infection Control Policy
- Supporting students with Medical Conditions Policy
- Records Management Policy
- Allergy Safety Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Lone Working Policy
- Educational Visits and School Trips Policy
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Policy

2. Roles and responsibilities

The governing board is responsible for:

- The overarching development and implementation of this policy and all corresponding procedures.
- Ensuring that the relevant risk assessments, and assessments of the first aid needs of the school specifically, have been conducted.
- Ensuring that there is a sufficient number of appointed first aiders within the school based upon these assessments.
- Ensuring that there are procedures and arrangements in place for first aid during off-site or out-of-hours activities, e.g. educational visits or parents' evenings.
- Ensuring that insurance arrangements provide full cover for any potential claims arising from actions of staff acting within the scope of their employment.
- Ensuring that appropriate and sufficient first aid training is provided for staff, and ensuring that processes are in place to validate that staff who have undertaken training have sufficient understanding, confidence and expertise in carrying out first aid duties.
- Ensuring that adequate equipment and facilities are provided for the school site.
- Ensuring that first aid provision for staff does not fall below the required standard and that provision for students and others complies with the relevant legislation and guidance.
- Ensuring that the school has:
    - A suitably stocked first-aid kit.
    - An appointed person to take charge of first-aid arrangements.
    - Information for all employees giving details of first-aid arrangements.

The headteacher is responsible for:

- The day-to-day development and implementation of this policy and its related procedures.
- Ensuring that all staff and parents are made aware of the school's policy and arrangements regarding first aid.
- Ensuring that all staff are aware of the locations of first aid equipment and how it can be accessed, particularly in the case of an emergency.
- Ensuring that all students and staff are aware of the identities of the school first aiders and how to contact them if necessary.

Staff are responsible for:

- Ensuring that they have sufficient awareness of this policy and the outlined procedures, including making sure that they know who to contact in the event of any illness, accident or injury.
- Securing the welfare of the students at school.
- Making students aware of the procedures to follow in the event of illness, accident or injury.

First aid staff are responsible for:

- Completing and renewing training as dictated by the governing board.
- Ensuring that they are comfortable and confident in administering first aid.
- Ensuring that they are fully aware of the content of this policy and any procedures for administering first aid, including emergency procedures.
- Keeping up to date with government guidance relating to first aid in schools.

The appointed person is responsible for:

- Overseeing the school's first-aid arrangements.
- Taking charge when someone is injured or becomes ill.
- Looking after the first-aid equipment, e.g. restocking the first aid container.
- Ensuring that an ambulance or other professional medical help is summoned when appropriate.
- Calling the emergency services where necessary.
- Maintaining injury and illness records as required.
- Partaking in emergency first aid training, and refresher training where appropriate, to ensure they have knowledge of:
    - What to do in an emergency.
    - How to assess and monitor a casualty
    - First aid for the unconscious casualty.
    - First aid for someone who is having a seizure.
    - Maintaining injury and illness records as required.
    - Paediatric first aid.

3. First aid provision

The school will routinely re-evaluate its first aid arrangements through a risk assessment, at least annually, to ensure that these arrangements continue to be appropriate for hazards and risks on the school premises, the size of the school, the needs of any vulnerable individuals onsite, and the nature and distribution of students and staff throughout the school.

The school will have suitably stocked first aid boxes in line with the assessment of needs. Where there is no special risk identified in the assessment of needs, the school will maintain the following minimum provision of first aid items:

- A leaflet giving general advice on first aid
- 20 individually wrapped sterile adhesive dressings, of assorted sizes
- 2 sterile eye pads
- 2 individually wrapped triangular bandages, preferably sterile
- 6 medium-sized individually wrapped sterile unmedicated wound dressings
- 2 large-sized individually wrapped sterile unmedicated wound dressings
- 3 pairs of disposable gloves

All first aid containers will be identified by a white cross on a green background.

The appointed person will routinely examine the contents of first aid boxes, including any mobile first aid boxes for offsite use – these will be frequently checked and restocked as soon as possible after use. Items will be safely discarded after the expiry date has passed.

First aid boxes are in the following areas:

Room 24 - Art	**Science Lab x 3**
Science Prep	**Girls PE - Changing Room**
Room 20 - Food & Fabric	**Boys PE - Changing Room**
Room 21 - D & T	**Gym**
Sports Hall Office	**Mini Bus x 2**
	Fixtures Bag

4. First aiders

The main duties of first aiders will be to administer immediate first aid to students, staff or visitors, and to ensure that an ambulance or other professional medical help is called when necessary.

The school will ensure that all first aiders hold a valid certificate of competence, issued by a HSE-approved organisation, and that refresher training and retesting of competence is arranged for first aiders within the school before certificates expire.

The school will be mindful that many standard first aid at work training courses do not include resuscitation procedures for children, and will consequently ensure that appropriate training is secured for first-aid personnel where this has not already been obtained.

First aiders will ensure that their first aid certificates are kept up-to-date through liaison with the appointed person.

Classroom first aiders will be responsible for ensuring all first aid kits are properly stocked and maintained. The first aid appointed person will be responsible for maintaining supplies.

First aid notices will be clearly displayed throughout the school with information on the names and locations of first aiders to ensure that students and staff know who they must contact in the event of illness or injury.

The current first aid appointed person is: **Sarah King, Office Manager**

The school will ensure that there is always a sufficient number of first-aid personnel available on site at all times to provide adequate cover to all areas of the school.

All staff members will be made aware that agreeing to become a first aider for the school is strictly on a voluntary basis and that they should never feel pressured to take on this role.

When selecting first aiders, the school will follow the criteria laid out in government guidance, considering the individual's:

- Reliability and communication skills.
- Aptitude and ability to absorb new knowledge and learn new skills.
- Ability to cope with stressful and physically demanding emergency procedures.
- Availability to respond immediately to an emergency.

The school will ensure that first aid training courses cover mental health in order to help them recognise the warning signs of mental ill health and to help them develop the skills required to approach and support someone, while keeping themselves safe. students will be supported in accordance with the school's Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Policy.

5. Automated external defibrillators (AEDs)

The school has procured three AED through the NHS Supply Chain, which are located in the reception area, sport hall and the outside school wall by the main entrance.

Where the use of the AED is required, individuals will follow the step-by-step instructions displayed on the device. A general awareness briefing session, to promote the use of AEDs, will be provided to staff on an annual basis, and usually during the first INSET session of the academic year. Use of the AED will be promoted to students during PSHE lessons.

6. Accommodation

The school's first aid room will be suitable to use as and when it is needed, and any additional medical accommodation will be available in accordance with the school's first aid needs assessment.

The first aid room will be used to enable the medical examination and treatment of students and for the short-term care of sick or injured students. The first aid room includes a wash basin and is situated near a toilet.

The first aid room will not be used for teaching purposes.

The first aid room will:

- Be large enough to hold an examination or medical couch.
- Have washable surfaces and adequate heating, ventilation and lighting.
- Be kept clean, tidy, accessible and available for use at all times when employees are at work.
- Have a sink with hot and cold running water.
- Be positioned as near as possible to a point of access for transport to hospital.
- Display a notice on the door which advises the names, locations and, if appropriate, the contact details of first aiders.

7. Emergency procedures

If an incident, illness or injury occurs, the member of staff in charge will assess the situation and decide on the appropriate course of action, which may involve calling for an ambulance immediately or calling for a first aider.

If called, a first aider will assess the situation and take charge of first aider administration. If the first aider does not consider that they can adequately deal with the presenting condition by the administration of first aid, then they will arrange for the injured person to access appropriate medical treatment without delay.

Where an initial assessment by the first aider indicates a moderate to serious injury has been sustained, or the individual has become seriously unwell, a responding staff member will call 999 immediately.

Where necessary, a trained staff member will administer emergency help and first aid to all injured persons. The purpose of this is to keep the victim alive and, if possible, comfortable, before professional medical help arrives. In some situations, immediate action can prevent the accident from becoming increasingly serious, or from involving more victims.

Where the seriously injured or unwell individual is a student, the following process will be followed:

- A responding staff member calls 999 immediately and follows the instructions of the operator – this may include the administering of emergency first aid.
- Where an ambulance is required, a staff member accompanies the student in the ambulance and calls the student's parent as soon as possible to inform them of the course of action taken. The staff member remains with the student at the hospital until a parent arrives.
- Where an ambulance is not required, but medical attention is needed, the student is taken to a hospital or doctor in a staff car, accompanied by at least **two** staff members – one to drive the car, and one who is a first aider, to sit with the student in the back seat and attend to their medical needs. The student's parent is called as soon as possible to inform them that this course of action has been taken, and at least one of the staff members remains with the student at the hospital or doctor's office until a parent arrives.
- The school will ensure that no further injury can result from any incidents that occur, either by making the scene of the incident safe, or, if they are fit to be moved, by removing injured persons from the scene.
- Responding staff members will see to any students who may have witnessed the incident or its aftermath and who may be worried or traumatised, despite not being directly involved. These students will be escorted from the scene of the incident and comforted. Younger or more vulnerable students may need parental support to be called immediately.

Once the above action has been taken, details of the incident will be reported promptly to:

- The headteacher.
- The parents of the victim(s).

Responding to an incident can be stressful for the first aider, and following an incident, the first aider may require support. This may take the form of a debrief from any ambulance crew on scene, an appointment with their GP, or mental health support from external helplines and websites located at the bottom of the government page 'Promoting and supporting mental health and wellbeing in schools and colleges'.

8. Reporting accidents and record keeping

In the event of incident or injury to a student, a parent will be informed as soon as practicable. In the event of a serious injury or an incident requiring emergency medical treatment, a member of staff (from the medical team, from the pastoral team or from the senior leadership team depending on availability) will telephone the student's parent as soon as possible. Parents will be informed in writing of any injury to the head, whether minor or major, and be given guidance on the action to take if symptoms develop. Parents will be given the option of an ambulance being called if there is trauma to the head and/or significant damage/bleeding.

A list of emergency contacts will be listed on SIMs.

The appointed person will ensure that records are kept of any injuries, accidents or illnesses, as well as any first aid treatment that is given – this will include:

- The date, time and place of the incident.
- The name and class of the injured or ill person.
- Details of the injury or illness and what first aid was given.
- Details of what happened to the person immediately afterwards, e.g. whether they were sent home or went back to class.
- The name of the first aider or person dealing with the incident.

The headteacher will ensure that any injury or accident that must be reported to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) or Local Authority (LA) under RIDDOR obligations is reported in a timely and detailed manner.

All records will be filed and stored in line with the Records Management Policy.

9. Offsite visits and events

Before undertaking any offsite visits or events, the teacher organising the trip or event will assess the level of first aid provision required by undertaking a suitable and sufficient risk assessment of the visit or event and the persons involved.

The school will take a first aid kit on all offsite visits which contains at a minimum:

- A leaflet giving general advice on first aid.
- 6 individually wrapped sterile adhesive dressings.
- 1 large sterile unmedicated dressing.
- 2 triangular bandages individually wrapped and preferably sterile.
- Individually wrapped moist cleansing wipes.
- 2 pairs of disposable gloves.

Additionally, the school will ensure that all large vehicles and minibuses have a first aid box readily available and in good condition which contains:

- 10 antiseptic wipes, foil packed.
- 1 conforming disposable bandage that is not less than 7.5cm wide.
- 2 triangular bandages.

- 1 packet of 24 assorted adhesive dressings.
- 3 large sterile unmedicated ambulance dressings that are not less than 15x20cm.
- 2 sterile eye pads, with attachments.
- 1 pair of non-rusted blunt-ended scissors.

For more information about the school's educational visit requirements, please see the Educational Visits and School Trips Policy.

10. Medicines

Administration

The school will ensure that staff are aware of government guidance which stipulates that the administration of first aid at work does not include the giving of tablets and medicines, whether prescribed or not. The only exception is where aspirin may be administered as first aid to a casualty aged 16 or over who is suspected of having a heart attack. Aspirin will never be given to a child under 16 unless it has been prescribed by a doctor.

The provisions and requirements for the administration of medicines will be outlined in the following school

policies and documents:

- Administering Medication Policy
- Allergy Safety Policy

In circumstances where pupils may need to have access to life saving prescription drugs in an emergency, the details will be recorded in the pupil's individual healthcare plan and identified staff members will be aware of what to do.

The school is aware that the administration of prescription only medication specified in Schedule 19 of the Human Medicines Regulations 2012 should only be given by those trained to do so. Where a first aid needs assessment identifies that Schedule 19 medication may be required to be administered in an emergency, the school will consider providing first aiders with additional training so that they can be aware of the symptoms and condition and administer lifesaving medication in an emergency situation.

The school will incorporate clear procedures for the storing of medication and for the administration of medication. This will include obtaining parental consent.

Storage

Medicines will be stored securely and appropriately in accordance with individual product instructions, save where individual pupils have been given responsibility for keeping such equipment with them. Medicines will be stored in the original container in which they were dispensed, together with the prescriber's instructions for administration, and properly labelled, showing the name of the patient, the date of prescription and the date of expiry of the medicine.

Medication will not be kept in a first aid container.

Medicine brought in by pupils will be returned to their parents for safe disposal when they are no longer required or have expired.

An emergency supply of medication will be available for pupils with medical conditions that require regular medication or potentially lifesaving equipment, e.g. an EpiPen.

Parents will advise the school when a child has a chronic medical condition or severe allergy so that an IHP can be implemented and staff can be trained to deal with any emergency in an appropriate way. Examples of this include epilepsy, diabetes and anaphylaxis. A disclaimer will be signed by the parents in this regard.

Pupils will have any medication stored and, where appropriate administered, in accordance with their EHC plans and the school's Administering Medication Policy.

11. Illnesses and allergies

When a student becomes ill during the school day, their parent will be contacted and asked to pick their child up as soon as possible.

A quiet area will be set aside for withdrawal and for students to rest while they wait for their parent to pick them up. students will be monitored during this time.

Where a student has an allergy, this will be addressed via the school's Allergy Safety Policy.

The school will manage any emergencies relating to illnesses and allergies in accordance with the Emergency procedures section of this policy.

12. Consent

Parents will be asked to complete and sign a medical consent form when their child is admitted to the school, which includes emergency numbers, alongside details of allergies and chronic conditions – these forms will be updated at the start of each school year.

Staff will not act 'in loco parentis' in making medical decisions as this has no basis in law. Staff will always aim to act and respond to accidents and illnesses based on what is reasonable under the circumstances and will always act in good faith while having the best interests of the student in mind – guidelines will be issued to staff in this regard.

13. Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the governing board, and any changes will be communicated to all members of staff.

Staff will be required to familiarise themselves with this policy as part of their induction programme. Staff will be informed of the arrangements that have been made in connection with the provision of first aid, including the location of equipment, facilities and personnel.