

## **Epilepsy Procedures**

### **What is Epilepsy?**

Epilepsy can affect any of us, at any age and from any walk of life. People with epilepsy are just like everyone else, except they are prone to recurrent seizure. A seizure is caused by a temporary change in the way the brain cells work. During a seizure the person may black out or experience a number of unusual sensations or movements. The whole thing usually only lasts a matter of seconds or minutes, after which the brain cells return to normal.

Seizures can be of two types – generalised or partial. Generalised seizures involve the whole brain. Partial seizures stay in just one part of the brain. (see attached page).

### **What happens when the school is informed a child has epilepsy?**

1. Mrs. Fahy speaks with the parents/carers to ascertain the history, how it was diagnosed and the advice and medication given so far.
2. A care plan is drawn up.
3. Information is passed on to the relevant staff who will be working with the child.
4. All staff are informed of the child who has epilepsy and the necessary action they will need to take

### **Emergency?**

You don't need to call a doctor as long as the person's seizure follows its usual pattern.

### **CALL AN AMBULANCE IF:**

- ❖ A tonic-clonic seizure carries on for more than a few minutes
- ❖ One tonic-clonic seizure follows another without the person regaining consciousness
- ❖ The person is badly injured during a seizure or may have inhaled water e.g. in the swimming pool

**Remember: you can't stop or shorten a seizure. Let it run its course and make sure the person having it doesn't come to any harm.**

### **Access to Curriculum**

Any child diagnosed as having epilepsy will not be restricted from the curriculum. Knowledge of the triggers, which affect a particular child, will be taken into account when planning activities.

### **School Social Events**

Many people believe that watching T.V. or playing video games can trigger a seizure. This is true in a few people who are photosensitive (sensitive to flickering light) – although only 5% of people with epilepsy are affected.

This is a consideration in disco and cinema club events – children with epilepsy are allowed to attend these if following consultation with their parents no risk is apparent and the parents are happy for them to attend.

At all school social events a member of staff will be present on site who will ensure that if any problems occur regarding a child with epilepsy emergency procedures will be followed.

### **Useful Contacts**

British Epilepsy Association  
Anstey House  
40 Hanover Square  
Leeds  
LS3 1BE

Initial date of procedure: July 2004  
Procedure last reviewed: July 2018

It is the intention to review this policy annually.