



SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

## **Epilepsy Procedures**

*We are a caring community which aims to promote respect and understanding of all individuals through a sharing of Catholic Faith and the love of Christ. All children will feel a sense of worth, knowing that they are valued and loved by God in their uniqueness.*

*We seek to create a learning environment which enables our children to succeed to their best ability and which recognises and values their variety of talents*

*We acknowledge the importance of our role in support for the family, the parish and the wider community.*

## 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.

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

1. Mr O'Hara / Mrs Elliott 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

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