

# Head Injury

## Policy

### Rationale:

- Any knock to the head can potentially become a concussion and can be a life threatening condition. Concussion is an altered state of consciousness; therefore, it is serious.

### Aims:

- To ensure that students who present with suspected head injuries are consistently treated with appropriate care.

### Implementation:

- Any student with a suspected head injury is to present to the first aid room, if it is appropriate that they move. Otherwise, first aid staff are to attend to the student in their current location.
- Such students will be kept for observation for at least 30 minutes.
- The student will be observed for levels of consciousness:
  1. orientation to time, place and person
  2. headache (increase of painful headache)
  3. loss of memory, particularly of the event
  4. blurred vision
  5. pupils becoming unequal in size
  6. vomiting
  7. drowsiness
  8. altered response to commands or touch
  9. blood or clear fluid escaping from nose or ears.
- An Incident Report will be completed.
- Parents / Guardians will be notified as soon as possible and must collect their child. All parents will be strongly encouraged to seek medical advice..
- If necessary, an ambulance will be organised by an appropriate senior staff member.
- Pain relief will not be given as it 'masks' the signs of the condition.
- Persons collecting students who are sent home will be provided with a First Aid Concussion Report outlining the signs and symptoms of concussion and to see a doctor if concerned.
- If the student's condition deteriorates, while waiting for parents to arrive, an ambulance will be called by dialling 000. It will be stated that the student has a head injury and that his or her condition is deteriorating.
- In the case of any student losing consciousness an ambulance will be called and the parent/guardian will be notified
- The school will communicate with parents/guardians after hours to offer advice and support.

### Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three year review cycle.

Ratified by School Council in: **July 2016**

References: