

Policy: Pupils on Crutches in School

RATIONALE

The presence, in school, of pupils dependent on the use of a pair of crutches, presents a health and safety risk, especially considering that many of the classes operate on floors other than the ground floor.

PURPOSES

- To reflect the Health and Safety risks which pupils dependent on crutches face.
- To reflect the fact that in many cases the short term use of crutches may be advised immediately post injury/initial treatment and during early medical assessment.
- To reflect the fact that in a limited number of cases the use of crutches may be required over an extended period.
- To reflect the best educational provision possible for pupils using crutches over an extended period.
- To reflect the organisational implications of students on crutches.

GUIDELINES

- The issue relates to the need for a pair of crutches to act in a weight-bearing capacity, not to the use of a single crutch.
- In the short term students will be advised not to attend school while dependent on a pair of crutches. This will be in the context of proximity to injury/initial treatment and assessment. (Work to be set.)
- Where pupils are to be dependent on a pair of crutches for an extended period they will be permitted to attend school, subject to restrictions.
- Parents will be requested to sign a “disclaimer” which outlines the conditions, subject to which their child may attend school. Parents will accept the risks of attendance. These conditions will provide the context in which the school can exercise its duty of care.
- The conditions of attendance will be:
 - Attendance at those classes which are on the ground floor.
 - For other classes pupils will be required to work as directed in alternative accommodation (work to be set).

- Movement between lessons will have to be staggered to avoid collision with other pupils.
- Pupils will remain in the Year Base at Break and Lunchtimes.
- Pupils will be responsible for the personal retention and correct use of the crutches.
- Transport arrangements to and from school will be the family's responsibility.

CONCLUSION

This policy recognises the school's educational commitment to pupils required to use crutches both in the short term and the long term, whilst also recognising health and safety organisational implications.