FIRST AID POLICY

PURPOSE

To ensure the school community understands our school's approach to first aid for students.

SCOPE

First aid for anaphylaxis and asthma is provided for in our school's:

- *Anaphylaxis Policy*
- *Asthma Policy*

This policy does not include information on first aid requirements for COVID-19. Our school follows the Department's operational guidance for first aid management relating to COVID-19.

POLICY

From time to time Gisborne Secondary College staff might need to administer first aid to students at school or school activities.

Parents/carers should be aware that the goal of first aid is not to diagnose or treat a condition.

Staffing

The Principal will ensure that Gisborne Secondary College has sufficient staff with the appropriate levels of first aid training to meet the first aid needs of the school community.

Our school's trained first aid officers are listed in our Emergency Management Plan (EMP). Our EMP includes the expiry dates of the training.

This list is reviewed on an annual basis as part of the annual review of our Emergency Management Plan.

First aid kits

Gisborne Secondary College will maintain:

- A major first aid kit which will be stored in the First Aid Room.
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- 13 portable first aid kits which may be used for excursions, camps, or yard duty. The portable first aid kits will be stored:
    - In the First Aid Room

Tracey Bickley will be responsible for maintaining all first aid kits, ensuring they are managed in accordance with the Department's policy and guidance on first aid kits – refer to First aid kits.

Care for ill students

Students who are unwell should not attend school.

If a student becomes unwell during the school day they may be directed to the first aid room and monitored by staff. Depending on the nature of their symptoms, staff may contact parents/carers or an emergency contact person to ask them to collect the student.

Serious illness or injury

The First Aid Officer should be called to the student if they cannot safely go to the first aid room. The officer must take the emergency First Aid Kit location on the bench in the first aid room and portable phone to the site.

If the student can be moved safely, they should be taken to the First Aid Room.

If there is any possibility of a spinal injury, serious head injury or other serious injury the student must not be moved until the situation is assessed by a medical professional (ambulance crew, paramedic, doctor).

The cause of the injury can be an indication of its severity. Staff will check the following when assessing a suspected head injury:

- The patient's response
- State of consciousness (change or deterioration)
- Blood or clear fluid escaping from the nose or ears
- Loss of memory
- Confusion
- Wounds
- Deformation of the skull
- Pupils becoming unequal in size
- Abnormal vision
- Headache
- Nausea and / or vomiting

Based on these observations first aid staff should decide whether to call 000. Reference to the Concussion Recognition Tool 5 should be used to assist identification of suspected concussion. It is not designed to diagnose concussion.

First aid room

Our school follows the Department's policy and guidance in relation to our first aid room to ensure it is safe, hygienic and appropriately equipped: First aid rooms and sick bays.

First aid management

If there is a situation or incident which occurs at school or a school activity which requires first aid to be administered to a student:

- Staff who have been trained in first aid will administer first aid in accordance with their training. In an emergency situation, other staff may assist in the administration of first aid within their level of competence.
- In a medical emergency, staff may take emergency action and do not need to obtain parent/carer consent to do so. Staff may contact Triple Zero "000" for emergency medical services at any time.
- Staff may also contact NURSE-ON-CALL (on 1300 60 60 24) in an emergency. NURSE-ON-CALL provides immediate, expert health advice from a registered nurse and is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- If first aid is administered for a minor injury or condition, Gisborne Secondary College will notify parents/carers by phone call.
- If first aid is administered for a serious injury or condition, or in an emergency situation, school staff will attempt to contact parents/carers or emergency contacts as soon as reasonably practical.
- If staff providing first aid determine that an emergency response is not required but that medical advice is needed, school staff will ask parents/carers, or an emergency contact person, to collect the student and recommend that advice is sought from a medical practitioner.
- Whenever first aid treatment is administered to a student resulting from a student incident, injury or illness, Gisborne Secondary College will:
    - record the provision of first aid treatment on Compass.
    - Where an ambulance is called, a report will be made via IRIS and WorkSafe.
    - if care was provided in response to a medical emergency or reportable incident, follow the Department's Reporting and Managing School Incidents Policy, including reporting the incident to the Department's Incident Support and Operations Centre on 1800 126 126 where required to under that policy.

In accordance with Department of Education policy, analgesics, including paracetamol and aspirin, will not be stored at school or provided as a standard first aid treatments. This is because they can mask signs of serious illness or injury. For further information refer to the Department's Policy and Advisory Library: Medication

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website [or insert other online parent/carer/student communication method]
- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Discussed at staff briefings/meetings as required
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following Department policies and guidelines:

- First Aid for Students and Staff
- Health Care Needs
- Infectious Diseases
- Blood Spills and Open Wounds
- Medication
- Syringe Disposals and Injuries

The following school policies are also relevant to this First Aid Policy:

- Administration of Medication Policy
- Anaphylaxis Policy
- Asthma Policy
- Duty of Care Policy
- Health Care Needs Policy

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	May 2025
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	May 2029