



First Aid in Schools Policy

November 2025 (Updated July 2026)

Approved by	Date	Review Schedule	Date of next review
Trust Board	01/09/2026	Every year	Nov 2027

Saint Paul teaches, 'the body is not made up of one part but of many.'

Chester Diocesan Learning Trust recognises and nurtures the unique gifts, skills and talents within our whole community.

We will empower adults and children to grow in character and mind, shaping a better future.

Shaping better futures; one body, many parts.

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1. Introduction

From time to time whilst children are in school (or taking part in school activities outside of school) they may be injured or become unwell and so require first aid. When this happens, any member of staff is considered to be 'in loco parentis' and so will act accordingly to offer the care and help that could reasonably be expected of a 'caring parent' in those circumstances.

As well as fulfilling this core role, all Chester Diocesan Learning Trust (CDLT or the Trust) schools also have members of staff who have been trained in first aid at different levels. These staff have a key role to play in ensuring that all CDLT schools provide a high standard of first aid care. Appropriate first aid equipment is available in school, to be used in the child's best interest and with great care. Where it is judged necessary the emergency services will be called or the child will be escorted to hospital. Our first aid practice is informed by current government guidance on best practice in first aid in schools, as laid out here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/first-aid-in-schools/first-aid-in-schools-early-years-and-further-education>

While school staff may take on the role of parent 'in loco parentis', all CDLT schools recognise that it is essential that parents/carers are kept fully informed whenever a child has received first aid. Schools all have suitable systems for recording accidents/first-aid incidents and for informing parents. In some schools, these systems are electronic.

All CDLT schools will ensure that:

- First aid procedures are clearly communicated to all staff,
- Procedures for dealing with specific severe conditions (such as asthma and anaphylaxis) are kept up-to-date and staff kept aware of any pupils in school who are particularly at risk of medical emergencies
- Sufficient staff hold appropriate first aid qualifications at any time
- Additional training is provided in a timely manner to ensure that staff are able to support any child with a known medical condition that may require specific first aid (e.g. epilepsy)
- First aid kits are available in school and on all school trips: these will be regularly checked to ensure that they are appropriately stocked and that all materials are within use-by dates. Schools will take account of HSE guidance in deciding appropriate stock for first aid kits.

2. Our aims

In accordance with statutory guidance from September 2026, the Trust's arrangements for allergy and anaphylaxis management are set out separately within the Trust's Allergy Safety Policy. This First Aid Policy should be read alongside that policy.

- Through thorough planning and preparation, to minimise the likelihood of first aid being required without stopping children from taking part in a full range of activities both in and out of school
- To provide safe and appropriate care for children and staff in the event of an accident or medical crisis
- To ensure that sufficient trained first aid staff are available to care for children or adults if the need arises.
- To ensure that there are at least two members of staff with paediatric first aid training, as required for the care of EYFS pupils.
- To ensure that all staff members know what to do if a child needs first aid treatment and how they should respond in those circumstances.
- To ensure that pupils at risk of anaphylaxis are recognised by staff, supported through Individual Healthcare Plans and allergy action plans where appropriate, and that prescribed and, where available, spare Adrenaline Auto-Injectors (AAIs) can be administered promptly by appropriately trained staff.
- Each school will identify an appropriate senior leader to oversee implementation of the Trust's Allergy Safety Policy.

- To ensure that at least one member of staff holding a valid Paediatric First Aid (PFA) qualification is present and supervising pupils during mealtimes in EYFS provision.
- To ensure that any child with a known medical condition is recognised by staff and they know the immediate steps to take in the event of that child entering crisis (e.g. an asthma attack)
- To ensure that we have appropriate first aid kit easily available in school with portable kits to take when children go off site on visits etc.
- To ensure that a member of staff with a current first aid certificate is present on all trips off site
- To ensure that members of staff are given training and that those with first aid certificates (including paediatric first aid certificates) are kept up-to-date.
- Staff will receive allergy awareness and anaphylaxis training appropriate to their role, in accordance with the Trust's Allergy Safety Policy.
- To ensure that all staff know how to involve the emergency services if they are needed.
- To ensure that appropriate medical support/attention and treatment is given to children for all but minor injuries.
- To keep parents and carers fully informed if their child has been given first aid treatment.

3. Provision of first aid

This section should be read in conjunction with each individual school's specific first aid procedures. These will typically cover situations including (but not confined to):

- dealing with anaphylaxis
- asthma procedures
- procedures for dealing with head injuries

In providing first aid:

- The first member of staff on scene will deal with the initial emergency 'in loco parentis' while seeking support as quickly as possible from a trained first aider; if the first member of staff on the scene is a trained first aider, they should still seek additional support to help deal with other pupils etc.
- A qualified first aider will assess the situation and decide whether qualified medical and emergency assistance is required (e.g. by contacting qualified medical/emergency services (999) or arranging for the child to be escorted to the nearest casualty facility). In doing this, they will use the 'better safe than sorry' principle and err on the side of caution
- Where a child is taken to hospital or emergency services are contacted, parents must be informed as early as possible.
- If an injury is sustained whilst the child is on a visit or other off-site activity, the senior member of staff present must notify the school as soon as the child's needs are met.
- If the child is not taken to hospital/emergency services contacted, but the first aider dealing with the situation feels it would be prudent to have the child 'checked out' by a medical professional (e.g. hospital or GP), parents will be told this and this recommendation will be recorded in the first aid log.
- All instances requiring first aid will be logged in line with school procedures.

4. First Aiders

Schools are responsible for ensuring that they have sufficient, appropriately trained first aiders in school, and on excursions out of school. As minimum expectation, in every CDLT school there should be:

- At least 2 members of staff with current, up to date paediatric first aid certificates – one of whom should be available at all times to support staff and pupils in EYFS
- At least 2 other members of staff with current, up to date first aid certificates (e.g. first aid at work) – in larger schools the number of first-aid trained staff should be proportionately larger

- At least one member of staff holding a valid Paediatric First Aid (PFA) qualification present and supervising pupils during mealtimes in EYFS provision
- Any early years students or trainees counted within statutory staff-to-child ratios must hold a valid Paediatric First Aid (PFA) certificate
- Staff trained to deal with any known specific conditions that may leave a pupil vulnerable to a medical emergency (e.g. trained to use an EpiPen if a child is known to be prone to severe allergic reactions)

At all times, the level of qualified first aiders working in a school will be at least in line with the government's most recent recommendations.

The names of the school's first aiders should be displayed in a number of places around school, including the staffroom, the school hall and any doors used as entrances/exits to/from playgrounds. This is to ensure that anyone who needs to find a first aider can quickly check the up-to-date list, and that lists are displayed in the most appropriate areas.

A named member of staff will be responsible for ensuring that first aid qualifications are maintained and re-training takes place when needed.

5. Impact

Children and adults in this school will be kept safe but on the rare occasion when they need first aid treatment, the school will see that appropriate treatment is given by members of staff with appropriate levels of training and knowledge of first aid. Where medical and emergency treatment is needed, medical help will be sought quickly. All staff will carry out their duty of care professionally at all times and parents will be kept fully informed if their child has needed first aid treatment.