

EPILEPSY MANAGEMENT POLICY

*The Currajong School takes a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse and is fully committed to ensuring that its strategies, policies, procedures and practices meet all **Child Safe Standards as specified in Ministerial Order No. 870 (2015)***

PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY

To ensure that students with epilepsy are given the opportunity to achieve their potential and participate fully in school life.

POLICY

The Currajong School will implement strategies to assist students with epilepsy or seizure disorders according to their specific needs. An Epilepsy Management Plan must be in place for each student, and staff supported to implement the plan through information and training.

DEFINITION

Epilepsy is a tendency to have recurrent seizures and is the most common serious neurological condition.

Seizures are caused by a sudden burst of excess electrical activity in the brain resulting in a temporary disruption in the normal messages passing between brain cells. The kind of seizure and the parts of the body affected by it relates to the part of the brain in which the irregular electrical activity has occurred. Seizures can involve loss of consciousness, a range of unusual movements, odd feelings and sensations or changed behaviour.

Seizure Types

The term generalised seizures is used where the whole of the brain is affected and partial or focal seizures used to describe seizures where only part of the brain is affected. The most common seizures for school aged children are listed on the table:

Generalised Seizures	
Tonic-clonic	A convulsive seizure involving loss of consciousness; body stiffens, followed by jerking of limbs, confused state afterwards; often incontinent.
Absence	Momentary loss of consciousness; person appears to daydream or be distracted; can happen frequently.
Myoclonic	Muscles in whole or part of body jerk briefly; can be single, uncontrolled movement; usually in the morning.
Atonic	Loss of muscle tone; person falls to the ground.
Partial (focal) Seizure	
Complex partial	Involves impaired awareness which means they don't know where they are or what is happening. May display unusual behaviours e.g. swallowing, scratching, wandering etc.; can be mistaken for misbehaviour.

IMPACT AT SCHOOL

With effective medication management and a healthy lifestyle, most students with epilepsy lead active lives. However, due to the seizures themselves, or the effects of anti-epileptic medication, students with epilepsy may experience difficulties with:

- memory and learning
- concentration and attention
- mood swings
- social isolation
- depression and/or anxiety
- fatigue due to:
 - some anti-epileptic medication
 - night time seizures
 - day time seizures
 - poor sleep patterns caused by abnormal brain activity
- processing of information
- changes in behaviour
- absences from school due to seizures, medical appointments, treatment and/or family concerns

STRATEGIES

The Currajong School will ensure that medical advice is received from the student's health practitioner ideally by completing an Epilepsy Management Plan. This plan will contain the information staff require to provide routine and emergency care for the student.

The Currajong School will display a student's Epilepsy Management Plan in the first aid room & also in classroom wellbeing folders. If required for particular students, relevant staff will be with training as guided by families, the student's doctor and Epilepsy Victoria.

This table describes how the school supports students with epilepsy:

Strategy	Description
Anti epileptic medication	Support the student with epilepsy to remember to take their medication.
Triggers	Any known triggers for seizures should be discussed with parents/carers and included in the student's Epilepsy Management Plan
Seizure response	<p>First aid for the student's seizure type will be included in their Epilepsy Management Plan.</p> <p>When a student has a seizure teachers should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• remain calm as other students tend to mirror the teacher's reaction• measure the time between seizures• protect the student having the seizure by:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- for a convulsive seizure, placing something soft under their head, loosening any tight clothing or restraints and removing hard objects that may cause injury, then laying the student on their side as soon as it is safe to do so- not restraining the student, stopping the jerking or putting anything in their mouth- administering emergency medication, if prescribed, according to the student's Epilepsy Management Plan- talking to the student to make sure they have regained full consciousness- staying with them until the seizure is over to provide reassurance• call an ambulance<ul style="list-style-type: none">- For any seizure, if you do not know the student or there is no Epilepsy Management Plan- If the seizure continues for more than 5 minutes, or if another seizure begins

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - When a serious injury has occurred, or if it occurs in water • see the seizure as a learning experience for other students to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - acquire accurate information - develop appropriate attitudes - gain understanding, not pity.
After the seizure	The student may need time to recover and rest in a quiet corner. The Epilepsy Management Plan should provide details about what to do following a seizure, particularly how long to supervise the student after the seizure ends.
Sporting and physical activities	Subject to medical advice, participation in these activities should be encouraged. Swimming lessons should be also encouraged but need careful planning and supervision.
Communicating with parents	Regularly communicate with the student's parents/carers about the student's successes, development, changes and any health and education concerns. Schools may wish to set up a communication book between the school and the family to relay information about the student's change in student's medication or other treatments.

OTHER RESOURCES

- [Children's Epilepsy Program, Royal Children's Hospital.](#)
- [Epilepsy Foundation of Victoria](#)
- [Epilepsy in education and children's services planning and support guide for education and children's services, South Australia Department of Education and Children's Services](#)
- [Epilepsy, Chronic Illness Alliance](#)

EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed as per our three-year review cycle or more often if necessary due to changes in regulations or circumstances.

Approval date:	Approved by:	Next review:
October 2021	School Board	October 2024



The Currajong School acknowledges the traditional owners of this country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures and to the Elders past, present and emerging.

