

Policy M315

St Mary's Epilepsy/Seizures Policy

Preamble

A seizure is a sudden surge of electrical activity in the brain that usually affects how a person feels or acts for a short time. Seizures are not a disease in themselves. Instead, they are a symptom of many different disorders that can affect the brain. Some seizures can hardly be noticed, while others are totally disabling.

The seizures in epilepsy may be related to a brain injury or a family tendency, but often the cause is completely unknown. The word "epilepsy" does not indicate anything about the cause or severity of the person's seizures.

Rationale

The St Mary's Catholic Primary School Seizure Management Plan aims to:

- Safely support, within the school environment, students with Epilepsy or other conditions involving seizures.
- Develop and maintain a school action and implementation plan, when dealing with students with Epilepsy/Seizures.
- Document the school community's agreed position on, and accepted procedures for dealing with students with Epilepsy/seizures.

Values

The Christian values of love, compassion, justice, dignity, self-discipline, tolerance and respect will be reflected in the provision of a safe and healthy environment for all children with Epilepsy/Seizures.

Policy

At St Mary's Catholic Primary School we are committed to providing a safe and healthy environment. We seek to educate all students and staff regarding the effects of seizures.

Implementation Issues

We will work in partnership with parents, medical staff and Diocesan WHSO authorities, to ensure safe, appropriate intervention for these students. The school will commit to responsible and achievable management practices in reducing any foreseeable risks associated with the support of students with Epilepsy/Seizures, within the school environment and within school associated activities.

- An enrolment application support process will be implemented for all Epileptic students and parents need to agree on this support process.
- For children with special requirements, a written individual Management Health Care Plan incorporating medical recommendation should be developed with the school in association with the parents/carers and medical practitioner. This should be attached to the student's records.
- The document "Guidelines for the Administration of Medication for Catholic Schools in the Rockhampton Diocese" will be referred to.
- Staff training in the recognition of signs and symptoms of Epilepsy/Seizures and emergency response procedures, will occur on an annual basis or as required.
- School will conduct a range of Epilepsy/Seizure awareness and education activities throughout the year. These will include:
 - a) Letters to parents;
 - b) Signs around the school, in sick bay and staff room.
- The identification of students with Epilepsy/Seizures will include:-
 - a) Photo identification, Vital Medical Information and Emergency Plan stored in individual classroom and staff rooms, on Medical Alert Board (including specialist teachers' rooms.)

- b) wearing of a purple wrist band (once we find it impractical to identify children.)
- Parents of students with Epilepsy/Seizures are responsible for informing the school of any changes to their Child's Individual Health Plan and Emergency Plan and supporting the implementation of strategies to ensure a safe learning environment exists.
- Yearly reviews of risk management documents must be undertaken to ensure optimal safety for Epileptic students.

Reflection Material

- Guidelines for the Administration of Medication for Catholic Schools in the Rockhampton Diocese
- Guidelines for Management of Students with Specialised Health Needs for Catholic Schools in the Rockhampton Diocese