



Simonds Catholic College is a school which operates with the consent of the Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne and is owned, operated and governed by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd (MACS).

Purpose

This policy is aligned with the First Aid Policy for MACS schools. The policy sets out the actions and resources required in Simonds Catholic College to ensure adequate first aid provision for students, staff and others in the school environment and when engaged in school approved activities.

Scope

This policy applies to students, staff, families and others at Simonds Catholic College.

Principles

The following principles underpin this policy:

- our school has a responsibility to ensure a safe working and learning for all members of school communities
- the principal and all staff have a duty of care to all students and the provision of adequate facilities and resources supports this in the school.

Policy

Simonds Catholic College is responsible for providing first aid assistance to students in the event of illness or a medical emergency.

First aid facilities

The principal ensures that first aid facilities are in place to meet the needs of staff, students and others in school environments and for school approved activities, including for off-site activities such as camps and excursions, and out of hours school events. The area has appropriate signage and is readily identified as “First Aid” in A building and is in view of Reception. In this area, the First aid facilities are supervised by First Aid Officers in Reception.

As Simonds Catholic College has a combined total of 450 or more staff and student, it has a room set aside for staff or students who are ill or injured. This room should not be used for other purposes. The room contains or has near access to the following:

- resuscitation mask
- work bench
- cupboards for storing medicaments, dressings and linen
- a container for soiled dressing
- a sharps disposal system
- electric power points
- a bed with blankets and pillows
- signage indicating emergency telephone numbers
- signage indicating emergency first aid procedures
- a first aid kit appropriate for the workplace

- basin with hot and cold running water

Sufficient staff must be trained under the provisions of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004* (Vic.) to ensure adequate provision of first aid, based on the number of students in the school or engaged in the activities, the activities being undertaken and the school environment.

First aid kits

First aid kits are located in the following locations:

- Administration Office – First Aid Room
- Staff Lounge [A defibrillator is available in the Staff Lounge]
- Art Room
- Technology Room
- Science Preparation Room
- Food Technology Room
- School buses*

Portable First aid kits, which contain an EpiPen and asthma inhaler (Ventolin), will be available for all groups that leave the school on excursions. It is up to the organising staff member to ensure they collect a Portable First Aid Kit. Additional portable First Aid Kits are available for the following;

- Physical Education
- Sport
- Camp

School Buses*

First Aid kits are in the glove box of the school buses. These first aid kits will not contain an EpiPen or asthma inhaler (Ventolin). Portable First aid kits, which contain an EpiPen and asthma inhaler (Ventolin), will be available for all groups that leave the school on excursions.

Simonds Catholic College maintains first aid kits in accordance with the following recommendations: First aid kits are checked after treatments and in any event on a regular basis by the First aid officers to ensure that their content complies with relevant legal regulations.

First aid staff and training

First aid officers provide initial care to injured students, staff or others in accordance with their level of training. They are not required to diagnose conditions or provide ongoing medical assistance.

The principal or their delegate will ensure that designated first aid officers and general staff have completed the recognised training. A first aid officer with current first aid qualifications must always be available to respond and assist an ill or injured person.

Where appropriate, a first aid officer will refer the ill or injured person to additional medical advice or assistance.

Additional staff with relevant training must be available depending on the student population, proximity to medical facilities, and the nature of activities being undertaken.

Training for anaphylaxis management is undertaken by all staff in the school.

A register of all first aid training is kept in the school by the Personal Assistant to the Principal. All staff are CPR trained and conduct refreshers on a yearly basis. Staff are required to upload their current first aid qualification to e HR each year.

All Reception Staff, including the Student Attendance Officer and the Registrar/PA to the Principal are First Aid Officers in the school and have the minimum training requirement [HLTAID011 -

Provide First Aid]. This certificate is to be renewed every three years. In addition, the refresher in HLTAID009 - Provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation is completed each year.

Administration of First Aid

School staff are responsible for providing first aid assistance to students in the event of illness or a medical emergency.

Our school staff who have been trained will administer first aid in accordance with their training. Trained staff can provide basic first aid with [DRSABCD](#).

In a medical emergency, staff take emergency action and do not need to obtain parent/carer consent to do so. Staff contact Triple Zero “000” for emergency medical services at any time.

On each occasion where first aid is administered to a student with a minor injury or condition, our school staff will notify parents/guardians/carers by contact details available at school. On each occasion where first aid is administered for a serious injury or condition, or in an emergency, school staff will attempt to contact parents/carers or emergency contacts as soon as reasonably practical.

Administration of First Aid for head injury

For students who have an impact to the head, suspected concussion, or observed concussion, our school staff can use [Concussion Recognition Tool 5](#) to help identify a suspected concussion.

If a student demonstrates symptoms of a [moderate to severe head injury](#) (neck pain or tenderness, double vision, weakness or tingling/burning in arms or legs, severe or increasing headache, seizure or convulsion, loss of consciousness, deteriorating conscious state, vomiting, increasingly restless, agitated or combative), the school is to call an ambulance immediately. If the [Concussion Recognition Tool 5](#) is used, the school must contact the parent/guardian/carer about the injury, even if the symptoms resolve. In the event of a suspected concussion, the parent/guardian/carer is asked to collect the student and have a medical assessment.

If a student has been diagnosed with a concussion/mild head injury, our schools will act on medical advice where this is provided to support a return to school and associated activities including participation in sport.

Royal Children’s Hospital fact sheet: [Head injury return to school and sport](#)

Communication with parents /guardians / carers

The school requires parents provide up-to-date and accurate medical information relating to students, including information about conditions such as anaphylaxis, asthma and diabetes. Parents are requested to provide this information annually, prior to camps and excursions and if the child’s medical condition changes since the information was provided.

Records of incidents, injuries and first aid treatment are documented. First aid records are retained within the school and in line with MACS policies for information recordkeeping, retention and disposal.

An incident report will be completed when first aid is administered. This report will be kept in the school and a copy provided for the parent / guardian / carer of the student.

Parents / guardians / carers are notified as soon as possible if required to collect an ill or injured student from the school. When a parent / guardian / carer cannot be contacted, the principal will contact the emergency contact nominated by the parent / guardian / carer.

The school requests that student medical information is provided by parents/guardians/carers on enrolment via PAM. Medical information collected includes details of a student's:

- immunisation history

- past medical/surgical history
- mental health
- asthma status
- allergies
- prescription medication
- dietary requirements
- specific medical conditions.

Student medical records are updated annually (as a minimum) by parents/guardians/carers and confirmed as up-to-date when permission is sought for camps, excursions or other school approved activities.

In the event of a student requiring medical attention, an attempt will be made to contact the parents/ guardians before calling medical attention except in an extreme emergency. In serious cases, parents/guardians will always be informed as quickly as possible of their child's condition and of the actions taken by the school. All accidents and injuries will be recorded on iSimonds. It is the policy of the school that all injuries to the head are reported on iSimonds and parents/emergency contacts are contacted regarding the injury. All notifiable incidents will also be reported to WorkSafe Victoria as required under the Occupational Health and Safety Act2004 (OHS Act).

This policy and other school policies and procedures for the distribution of medication and management of students with medical conditions are published on the school's website, and communicated in school newsletters and in messages available to parents via PAM.

Definitions

First aid

The emergency treatment provided to employees, students and others who suffer injury or illness while at work/school, using the facilities or materials available at the time. In the case of severe injury or illness, members of staff are not required to diagnose or treat the condition apart from carrying out the appropriate first aid procedures. Diagnosis and treatment are the responsibility of the ambulance officer or medical practitioners.

First aid officers

Staff members who have been trained in first aid and are designated to provide initial care of ill or injured staff, students or others.

Related policies and documents

Supporting documents

First Aid Risk Assessment – Template for Schools

First Aid Form – School and Parent/Guardian/Carer Record – Template for Schools

School-based processes and guidelines

[Student Safety in ACC Competition](#)

Related MACS policies and documents

Administration of Medication Policy

Anaphylaxis Policy

Excursion, Camps and Travel Policy

Medical Management Policy for MACS Schools

Medical Management Procedures for MACS Schools

OHS Policy – Schools

Resources

Department of Education First Aid Contents Checklist, available on the [First Aid for Students and Staff webpage](#)

[Department of Health – School Exclusion periods for primary schools](#)

[Department of Health – School Exclusion table](#)

[Murdoch Children’s Research Institute HeadCheck Concussion Recognition Support Tool](#)

[The Royal Children’s Hospital Melbourne Head Injury – return to school and sport](#)

[CECV Student Activity Locator](#)

[Asthma First Aid Poster](#)

[ASCIA First Aid Plan for Anaphylaxis](#)

[ASCIA Action Plan for Allergic Reactions](#)

[ASCIA Action Plan for Drug \(Medication\) Allergy](#)

[St John’s Ambulance First Aid fact sheets](#)

Legislation and standards

Education and Training Reform Regulations 2017 (Vic.)

Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 (Vic.)

Approval date	October 2023
Risk rating	High
Publication	CEVN, School website