



Scarborough College

HEAD INJURY TREATMENT PROTOCOL

Minor head injuries are common in children and do not usually cause any serious problems. They are often caused by a blow to the head and in the school environment this is usually due to a fall or sporting activity.

Every minor head injury is different and Scarborough College acts in a 'play safe' manner in assessment and management of head injuries sustained in school. The advice below gives details of what signs and symptoms should be looked for in children who have hit their heads in school and when medical advice should be sought.

A head injury is defined as 'any trauma to the head other than superficial injuries to the face' NICE Head Injury Guidelines 2007 and updated in 2014 (CG176).

Common minor symptoms after a head injury:

- Bump or bruise on the exterior of the head.
- Nausea or vomiting once soon after the injury.
- Mild headache, younger children may show only irritability.
- Mild dizziness.
- Feeling generally miserable/off colour.
- Loss of appetite.
- Increased tiredness.
- Lack of concentration.

If a child sustains a head injury whilst in school an ice pack should be applied immediately to any bump or bruise, if there is an open wound a pressure bandage should be applied. The child should then be escorted by an adult to the medical centre or the School Nurse a first aider should be called to the incident to assess the casualty.

An accident form should be completed and sent to the Health and Safety Co-ordinator. A '**notification of head injury**' information leaflet must be sent home with the child, these leaflets are available from the medical centre. In addition parents may be notified by telephone call following any minor head injury to their child and invited in to inspect the injury if deemed appropriate. If a boarder sustains a head injury the duty house staff must be informed and sent a notification of head injury form.

First aiders must ensure they inform the School Nurse as soon as possible.

Most children make a full recovery, however if the child loses consciousness, has a persistent headache or a change in behaviour notify the School Nurse or take them to the nearest Accident and Emergency department.

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