



*"Inspiring minds to ignite lifelong learning"*



**Onchan Primary School**  
School Road, Onchan, Isle of Man IM3 4PD  
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## **Epilepsy Policy**

### **Introduction**

At Onchan Primary School, we are committed to ensuring that every child is safe, supported and fully included in all aspects of school life.

This includes pupils who have epilepsy, whether their seizures are well controlled or ongoing.

Epilepsy affects approximately one child in every primary school and can have a significant impact on a young person's wellbeing, learning, and participation.

We work in partnership with parents, carers, healthcare professionals and the Department of Education, Sport and Culture (DESC) to ensure that every pupil with epilepsy is cared for with compassion, respect and dignity.

This policy aligns with the DESC Inclusion Policy (2024) and the Isle of Man Quality Assurance Framework, and should be read alongside the school's Inclusion and Additional Educational Needs Policy, Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy, Health and Safety Policy, and Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

### **Aims**

Onchan Primary School aims to:

- Ensure all pupils with epilepsy are safe, supported and included in every aspect of school life.
- Empower staff with the knowledge and confidence to respond effectively to seizures.
- Work collaboratively with parents, carers and health professionals to promote consistency and understanding.
- Eliminate discrimination and ensure full access to the curriculum and extra-curricular activities.
- Promote awareness and understanding of epilepsy among staff and pupils to create an inclusive and supportive environment.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

Onchan School SLT ensure that:

- All relevant staff are trained and confident in managing epilepsy and responding to seizures.
- Individual Health Care Plans (HCPs) are in place, implemented and reviewed.
- Reasonable adjustments are made to promote safety, participation and inclusion.



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- Risk assessments are completed and updated where needed.
- Epilepsy awareness and inclusion are embedded within the school's wellbeing and safeguarding culture.

## **Understanding Epilepsy**

Epilepsy is a neurological condition that affects the brain and causes recurrent seizures. There are two main types:

- Generalised onset seizures: Affect the whole brain. The child becomes unconscious, sometimes with muscle stiffness or jerking movements.
- Focal onset seizures: Affect one part of the brain. Symptoms vary depending on the area affected — for example, staring, unusual movements, confusion, or emotional changes.

Some seizures may be difficult to recognise. Absence seizures may appear as daydreaming, and focal seizures may be mistaken for unusual behaviour.

It is therefore essential that staff are trained to identify seizure types and respond appropriately.

## **Health Care Plans (HCPs)**

Every pupil with epilepsy must have an Individual Health Care Plan (HCP) drawn up collaboratively between the pupil, parents/carers, the school, and healthcare professionals.

The HCP should outline seizure type, triggers, medication details, emergency procedures, and staff responsibilities.

It should be reviewed annually or sooner if changes occur, and parents must keep the school updated on any changes in their child's condition.

## **Risk Assessment and Safety Precautions**

Each child with epilepsy will have an individual risk assessment covering school activities including PE, swimming, playtimes and trips.

Reasonable adjustments will be made to ensure safety and inclusion. Risk assessments will be reviewed regularly and adapted as needed.

## **Seizure First Aid – General Guidance**

Staff should always follow the pupil's individual Health Care Plan and emergency protocol.

General principles include staying calm, timing the seizure, protecting the child from injury, placing them in the recovery position when safe, and maintaining privacy and dignity.



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**Emergency services should always be called.**

### **Medication and Record Keeping**

All medication must be stored securely, and staff need to administer it in line with the HCP.

Parents must complete a medication consent form. Records of administration are kept securely with the medicine.

### **Staff Training**

All staff receive First Aid training every three years which includes seizure awareness and protocols. Following a pupil's diagnosis an annual update is sort for those staff working with the child. Training records are maintained by the school. Any changes **MUST** be communicated by pupils to school.

### **Emotional Support and Inclusion**

Epilepsy can affect confidence, friendships, and wellbeing. Onchan School promotes emotional health through nurturing support, calm recovery spaces, peer education, and collaboration with parents.

### **Monitoring and Review**

This policy and Health Care Plans are reviewed annually or sooner if needed. Effectiveness is evaluated through pupil wellbeing, training feedback, and compliance with DESC and IOM Quality Assurance Framework standards.

### **Key Staff and Review Date**

Inclusion Lead/SENCo: Mandy Gravestock

SPC Manager: Lucy Kheir

Policy Review Date: November 2025

Next Review: October 2026