

Accepting a student back to school on crutches

Talbot Heath requires a letter from a medical professional (GP, hospital etc) detailing exactly what injury has been sustained before accepting responsibility for a student on crutches. The letter should include details of whether the student is required to use crutches in school and approximately how long for. Further information to be detailed, if possible, includes: when weight bearing should begin and any follow-up appointments (fracture clinics, physiotherapy etc).

We would appreciate the student being dropped off by a parent/carer on their initial return to school to enable the following to be discussed/explained: Leaving lessons early, Medication (particularly analgesia), Collecting from school arrangements can be discussed, Follow-up appointments noted.

In terms of the health and safety issues within Food/Textiles, Science and Technology each of these Teams will make an individual decision as to whether a student on crutches can join in with the practical activities. Provisions should be made during the lesson for students to “sit-out” within the classroom environment if it is felt too dangerous for them to join in, and they could complete other work.

With regard to the issue of protective footwear (“Beckham Boot” or similar, as issued by A&E department/GP surgery) It is recommended that the pupil be given guidance as to the circumstances this may be removed for personal hygiene reasons and how best to manage safely in the shower/bath.

Accepting to care for students on crutches without clear medical information, potentially puts the school at risk. Therefore it is unacceptable for students to return to school on crutches if they have obtained them from means other than a professional/medical establishment i.e. friends, sports coaches etc – these students have not been officially checked out either at GP or Emergency Department/physio and are a potential danger to both themselves and other students.

On return to school a practical demonstration of how to use crutches around school will be given by the nurse on duty and the student technique assessed. Advice on use of crutches whilst going up and down stairs and care of palms will be given and a note made on ISAMS that this has been done.

All crutches must meet the following standards:

- The crutches are a matching pair
- They are below elbow type, axilla crutches must not be used.
- They are correctly fitted for the height of the student; The handle should be level with the ulna styloid when standing in a natural upright position, arms straight down.
- Both ferrules are in good condition with sufficient tread.
- There are no loose or missing parts

Crutches are not issued from the Health Centre