

EPILEPSY AND SEIZURES POLICY

Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Keysborough Secondary College.
Phone 03 9798 1877 – Acacia Campus or 03 9546 4144 – Banksia Campus or email at:
keysborough.sc@education.vic.gov.au.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that Keysborough Secondary College provides appropriate support for students diagnosed with epilepsy or who experience a non-epileptic seizure event.

IMPACT OF EPILEPSY AND SEIZURES ON THE STUDENT AT SCHOOL

Many students with epilepsy have their seizures well-controlled with medication and can participate fully in school life. However, studies indicate that students with epilepsy are at a higher risk of:

- psychological issues or mental health problems
- memory, attention and concentration problems
- behaviour problems
- fatigue
- school absences

All of these may negatively impact the student's learning and academic achievements.

Encouraging student participation

The impact on learning following a seizure event can vary, however:

Many types of seizures are non-epileptic and may never be accurately diagnosed.

Students with epilepsy can generally participate fully in school life, including sport and physical activities, camps, excursions and special events.

Subject to medical advice, participation in all of these College activities should be encouraged.

Keysborough Secondary College has a duty of care to provide a safe learning environment for all students and ensure they accommodate the needs of all students, including those with epilepsy.

DEFINITIONS

Epilepsy

Epilepsy is characterised by recurrent seizures due to abnormal electrical activity in the brain.

Epileptic seizures

Epileptic seizures:

are caused by a sudden burst of excess electrical activity in the brain resulting in a temporary disruption in the normal messages passing between brain cells

can involve loss of consciousness

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organic NES which have a physical cause
psychogenic NES which are caused by mental or emotional processes

Seizure triggers

A term used to describe known circumstances where the individual may have an increased likelihood of having a seizure. Seizure triggers are:

- unique to the person
- sometimes not always known
- sometimes caused by stress
- sometimes caused by lack of sleep
- sometimes caused by heat
- sometimes caused by illness
- sometimes caused by missed medication.

A detailed description of seizure types and triggers can be found on the Epilepsy Foundation's website.

POLICY

For each student diagnosed with epilepsy, Keysborough Secondary College must have in place:

[Student Health Support Plan](#) — outlining the College's role in supporting the student's health needs (including epilepsy)

[Medication Authority Form](#) — for a student who requires regular (non-emergency) medication(s) to be administered at school and ensure a log is kept of any medicine administered

[Epilepsy Management Plan](#) — signed by the treating doctor and provided to the school by the student's parents/carers

[Emergency Medication Management Plan](#) (if required) — signed by a doctor and provided by the student's parents/carers

Keysborough Secondary College must refer to the [DET Epilepsy and Seizures Policy](#) for further advice on the management of students with epilepsy and for students who have a seizure.

All relevant Keysborough Secondary College staff who work directly with a student with epilepsy or has seizures are required to receive training in:

Epilepsy: An Introduction to Understanding and Managing Epilepsy (one hour eLearning module) or a suitable equivalent delivered by a recognised epilepsy provider
as required — Epilepsy: Administration of Emergency Medication Parts 1 (theory) & Part 2 (practical) or a suitable equivalent delivered by a recognised epilepsy provider

For each student that has been prescribed emergency medication, an up-

talk to the student to make sure they regain full consciousness
stay with and reassure the student until they have fully recovered
provide appropriate post seizure support or adjustments — refer to: [Epilepsy Support](#)

For a tonic-clonic seizure (convulsive seizure with loss of consciousness), which presents as muscle stiffening and
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medication kits may be stored in the Administration office of each of the Junior Village and Senior Village buildings of each campus if deemed appropriate after consultation between the student, family, the Campus Nurse and the Wellbeing Assistant Principal.

The location of the Epilepsy medication kit/s must be made known to all relevant College staff who work directly with a student with epilepsy.

Keysborough Secondary College is required to make plans for the transport of individual emergency Epilepsy medication kit/s to camps, excursions and special events as required; with consideration given to keeping the medication cool where required.

For more information on storing Epilepsy medication consult the Keysborough Secondary College

The inclusion of students on the ketogenic diet within the school setting requires Keysborough Secondary College staff to be mindful of the restrictive and potentially isolating impact this diet may have on the student, including on camps, excursions and special events and when discussing 'healthy eating' in the classroom.

Swimming and water safety with epilepsy

In and around water represents a serious potential risk for all people living with epilepsy. The level of support and supervision a student needs will vary depending on specific risk mitigation strategies that the doctor has instructed in the student's epilepsy management plan.

Unless otherwise specified in writing by the doctor, a dedicated Keysborough Secondary College staff member (Duty of Care cannot be delegated) must keep the student under visual observation at all times while the student is in the water and be able to get assistance to the student quickly if a seizure occurs.

Additionally, a dedicated Keysborough Secondary College staff member must remain within close distance to a student with epilepsy when bathing/showering (for example, standing outside the bathing/shower door).

Seizure response

Keysborough Secondary College staff will make the mandated and reasonable adjustments in the classroom and other College activities in relation to the student's seizure activity. This may include a class schedule that allows for required attendance at medical appointments.

These adjustments should be outlined in the student's [Student Health Support Plan](#).

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RELATED KEYSBOROUGH SECONDARY COLLEGE POLICIES

- Ambulance Policy
- Anaphylaxis Policy
- Asthma Policy
- Camps and Activities Policy
- Communication Policy
- Duty of Care Policy
- First Aid and Care for Ill Students Policy
- Health Needs Policy
- Medication Administration Policy
- Wellbeing and Engagement Policy

RELATED DET POLICIES

- Duty of Care
- Health Care Needs
- Medication

RELEVANT LEGISLATION