

Protocol For Accepting Students Back Into School Whilst On Crutches

The Chalfonts Community College 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.

This letter should include details of whether the student is required to use crutches in school and approximately for how long. Further information to be detailed, if possible, including: when weight bearing should begin and any follow-up appointments (fracture clinics, physiotherapy etc.) Looking after students on crutches is not a responsibility taken lightly by the school and without clear medical information, potentially puts the school and students at risk.

It is unacceptable for students returning to school on crutches that they have obtained from means other than a professional/medical establishment i.e. friends, football coaches etc. – these students have not been officially checked out either at GP or A&E and are a potential danger to both themselves and other students.

We would appreciate parent/carer contact prior to the student's initial return to school to enable the following to be discussed and explained:

- Leaving lessons early
- General support
- Medication
- Arrangements to and from school
- Emergency contact details can be checked
- Follow-up appointments noted
- Risk Assessment or PEEP Plan

In terms of the health and safety issues within Food/Textiles, Science, PE and Technology, we may have to make the decision as to whether a student on crutches is able to join in with a practical activity. A provision may be made during the lesson for a student to join another class if it is felt too dangerous for them to join in however we do endeavor to promote inclusion at all times.

With regard to the issue of protective footwear (as issued by A&E department/GP surgery) for all students returning to school on crutches it has been the practice in the past that there was a requirement for all students on crutches who could not wear their usual footwear to obtain a protective Velcro foot covering. However we accept that this type of footwear would not be issued in all cases therefore it is suggested that students are not allowed back into school without relevant protective footwear.

It is recommended that a generic temporary Risk Assessment/PEEP Plan detailing the health & safety issues for all students on crutches is produced and parents/guardians made aware of the details in each case.