

## **Use of Assistive Mobility Devices in School**

### **Guidelines and Procedures for Parents, Guardians, and Students**

The Newgrange School considers the health and safety of the student population to be imperative. Our administration and staff understand that there are implications for the delivery of healthcare and academic progress to students who use mobility devices such as **crutches, wheelchairs, canes, etc.** The Newgrange school will be responsive to the concerns of parents and guardians of students who may need to utilize mobility devices while in school.

It is important to note that the presence of a student who is dependent upon the use of an assistive mobility device prevents a health and safety risk. It must be considered that The Newgrange School cannot anticipate every event or circumstance that may lead to a possible fall or injury. The Newgrange School "Use of an Assistive Mobility Device" Policy is implemented in order to make every effort to optimize health and safety and prevent student injury. Medical documentation is necessary for our staff to be prepared to address the needs of a student with an injury requiring the temporary need for medical equipment.

#### **Guidelines:**

- Guidelines apply for **ALL** assistive mobility device use
- The Newgrange School will implement the Assistive Mobility Device Guideline, Policy and Procedures for any student reporting to school with crutches, wheelchair, canes, etc.
- There may be some situations where a student may be advised not to attend school. This recommendation will be determined on a case-by-case basis and can be discussed with the school nurse and administration if home instruction is needed.
- A student who requires the use of an assistive mobility device for an extended period may be permitted to return to school with restrictions in place to ensure their health and safety.
- Parents and guardians may be permitted to return a student to school with an assistive mobility device with the understanding of routine risks. It is the responsibility of parents and guardians to accept these risks while the student attends school with said devices.
- A student who is medically excused from physical education is not eligible to participate in recess, field trip athletic activities, or any other physical activity until written approval from the health care provider is submitted.

#### **Procedures for the Use of Medical Equipment in School:**

- ***Students may NOT report to school with crutches, wheelchair, cane, etc., without a medical note.*** Your healthcare provider must be the issuer of the equipment for the current injury.

- A medical note **must be submitted to the school nurse** and should include the diagnosis, recommendations for crutch walking on stairs (if applicable), recommendations for school activity such as physical education and recess, and that the student has been advised on how to properly use crutches, wheelchairs, canes, etc.
- The parent or guardian is responsible for ensuring proper crutch walking, or use of an assistive device, through the healthcare provider, or physical therapy department (this does not include the Newgrange/Laurel physical therapy department).
- The student may agree to have a partner assigned to them for assistance ambulating between classes.
- The student must be made aware that they should only ambulate as needed in the hallways, and may be provided with a hall pass to leave classes a few minutes early to avoid hallway congestion.
- Students **can only return to physical activities when documentation from the healthcare provider is provided to the school nurse**, indicating that they have been evaluated and are cleared to return to full activity. Students will not be permitted to return to gym until medical clearance is received.

The Newgrange School recognizes the educational commitment and need for accommodations for students requiring assistive medical devices. The Newgrange School understands the responsibility for the health and safety is not the sole responsibility of any one member or employee, but that of the whole school community and parent/guardian. Please contact the school at 609-584-1800 ext 0229 with questions or concerns regarding assistive medical device use in school.

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I, the Parent/Guardian, have received, read, and understand The Newgrange School Guidelines and Procedures for the use of an assistive medical device in school. I understand that all medical documentation should be submitted to the school nurse in a timely manner to ensure the health and safety of my child.

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Parent/Guardian Signature

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Date