



# **Procedure for the management of overdoses involving children within schools and colleges**

All children that disclose that they have taken an overdose need to go to the Emergency Department at the nearest hospital to be checked over.

To enable the child to be effectively triaged upon arrival at the Emergency Department, school and college staff should try to gather details on:

1. When the overdose was taken;
2. The location of where the overdose was taken;
3. What medication or substance was taken;
4. Who the medication or substance that was taken belongs to; and
5. How much of the medication or substance was taken.

The school or college should review the child's presentation to decide on the most appropriate method of transporting the child to the Emergency Department, utilising Table 1 to inform their decision making.

### **Notification to Family Connect**

Please refer to the Partnership Threshold Guidance ([www.telford.gov.uk/downloads/file/24555/telford\\_and\\_wrekin\\_threshold\\_guidance\\_2023](http://www.telford.gov.uk/downloads/file/24555/telford_and_wrekin_threshold_guidance_2023)) for advice on when to contact Family Connect regarding your concerns for the child, based on the identified thresholds of need.

Family Connect offer advice and guidance to professionals for complex and acute, they can be contacted on 01952 385385 to discuss further.

### **Support for child following discharge from the Emergency Department**

All agencies should consider the support offer for the child following discharge from hospital from partners e.g. health, mental health and school/college.

**Table 1:** Transporting a child to hospital following an overdose

RED	AMBER	GREEN
<p>If the child is presenting as unwell, ring 999 for an ambulance to transport the child to the Emergency Department. The school should notify the child's parent or carer that the child is going to hospital and ask for them to meet them the child there.</p> <p>If the ambulance will not take the child to the Emergency Department, the school should contact the child's parent or carer to ask them to take the child to the nearest Emergency Department.</p>	<p>If there are concerns that the parent or carer may not take the child to the Emergency Department, or there will be a delay in the child going to the Emergency Department, the school or college should take the child to the Emergency Department and ask the child's parent or carer to meet them there.</p>	<p>If the child is not presenting as sufficiently unwell to require an ambulance, and the parent or carer is willing and able to take the child to the Emergency Department, the school or college should ask the parent or carer to take the child to the Emergency Department to get checked out.</p> <p>The school or college will ask the parent or carer to take the child to the nearest Emergency Department within 1 hour. Parents need to confirm which Emergency Department that they will be attending, to enable the school or college to notify that Emergency Department of the child being brought in for review. Contact details are listed in <b>Table 2</b>.</p> <p>If the child does not present to the agreed Emergency Department within 1 hour, the Emergency Department will notify the Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children.</p> <p>If a young person presents to the Emergency Department following an overdose and they have driven themselves, the Emergency Department should notify the Police.</p>

**Table 2:** Emergency Department contact details

The Princess Royal Hospital Apley Castle Telford TF1 6TF	Telephone: 01952 641222
Royal Shrewsbury Hospital Mytton Oak Road Shrewsbury SY3 8XQ	Telephone: 01743 261000
New Cross Hospital Wolverhampton Road Heath Town Wolverhampton WV10 0QP	Telephone: 01902 307999