

# NEEDLE STICK INJURIES

## POLICY

### Rationale:

- Sharps such as used or discarded hypodermic needles present a potential health and safety risk to everybody, particularly students. Whilst our school will make every attempt to ensure sharps are safely managed, needle stick injuries remain possible.

### Aims:

- To eliminate needle stick injuries.
- To ensure needle stick injuries are managed correctly and confidently.

### Implementation:

- All staff will be provided with professional development as to the correct process for the collection and/or disposal of sharps/syringes, as well as how to respond to needle stick injuries.
- The curriculum for all students will include identification of sharps, dangers associated with sharps, and the correct protocols for storing and disposing of sharps.
- Students or staff members who use sharps for proper purposes (such as diabetics) must have an individual sharps management plan, agreed to by the principal.
- The school will make available safe and practical storage facilities for sharps.
- Staff should always go to the sharp rather than the sharp being taken to staff.
- Any and all needle stick injuries will be managed in the following manner:

### **PROTOCOL FOR MANAGING NEEDLE STICK INJURIES**

1. Reassure the injured person.
2. Ensure the needle is correctly disposed of (see Sharps policy).
3. Encourage the wound to bleed.
4. Flush the area with warm running water and soap, and pat dry with paper towel or similar.
5. Cover the wound with a waterproof dressing.
6. Contact the principal, who will contact the hospital for assessment and treatment if required.
7. If the injured person is a student, then contact parents immediately.
8. Ensure the injured person is accompanied by an adult to the hospital or nearest doctor or medical facility as advised.
9. Complete all usual Injury Report forms etc.
10. Maintain confidentiality as required.
11. Principal may contact Syringe Disposal Help Line 1800 552 355 for sharps disposal – unless advice from the hospital is that the needle is required for analysis.

### Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's regular review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

**February 2015**