# Twin Oaks Primary School

## USE OF DEFIBRILLATOR POLICY

| | |
|---|---|
| Governing Body with Responsibility | Resources |
| Agreed by Governors on | November 2025 |
| Chair's Signature | Gavin Kennedy |
| Staff Member Responsible for Review | SBM |
| Date for Review | November 2027 |

Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) An AED is a machine used to give an electric shock when a person is in cardiac arrest, i.e. when the heart stops beating normally.

Cardiac arrest can affect people of any age and without warning. If this happens, swift action in the form of early cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and prompt defibrillation can help save a person's life. 'Overall survival rates vary across the country, but range between 2% and 12%.

However, survival rates as high as 75% have been reported where CPR and defibrillation are delivered promptly.

This is why the statutory guidance on supporting pupils at school with medical conditions advises schools to consider purchasing an AED as part of their first-aid equipment.

**' The chain of survival '**

In the event of a cardiac arrest, defibrillation can help save lives, but to be effective, it should be delivered as part of the chain of survival.

There are four stages to the chain of survival, and these should happen in order.

When carried out quickly, they can drastically increase the likelihood of a person surviving a cardiac arrest.

They are:

1. Early recognition and call for help. Dial 999 to alert the emergency services. The emergency services operator can stay on the line and advise on giving CPR and using an AED.

2. Early manual CPR – to create an artificial circulation. Chest compressions push blood around the heart and to vital organs like the brain. If a person is unwilling or unable to perform mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, he or she may still perform compressions only.

CPR. 3. Early defibrillation – to use the AED to attempt to restore a normal heart rhythm and hence blood and oxygen circulation around the body. Some people experiencing a cardiac arrest will have a 'non-shockable rhythm'. In this case, continuing manual CPR until the emergency services arrive is paramount.

4. Early post-resuscitation care – to stabilise the patient.

Anyone is capable of delivering stages 1 to 3 at the scene of the incident. However, it is important to emphasise that life-saving interventions such as CPR and defibrillation (stages 2 and 3) are only intended to help buy time until the emergency services arrive, which is why dialling 999 is the first step in the chain of survival.

Unless the emergency services have been notified promptly, the person will not receive the post-resuscitation care that they need to stabilise their condition and restore their quality of life (stage 4).

The chain as a whole is only as strong as its weakest link. Defibrillation is a vital link in the chain and, the sooner it can be administered, the greater the chance of survival.

DEF guidance for schools: Automatic external defibrillators (AEDs), guidance for schools

**Location**

At Twin Oaks the AED is located in the office in a drawer clearly marked with the standard sign for AEDs. The location of our AED is on the national defibrillator network for term time school hours, thus members of the public may also come to use the defibrillator.

**Training**

Although AEDs are designed to be used by someone without any specific training and by following step by step instructions on the AED at the time of use, all our first aiders have been trained in the safe use of the AED (as part of an attended first aid course). All staff have been sent a link to a youtube video which shows them how to use the AED and will be sent an annual reminder.

All our school first aiders are AED trained and are on posters all around the school including in the classrooms, the staff room and the school office.

**Action Plan**

The action plan to be followed if resuscitation is needed is set out below.

**Maintenance**

Modern AEDs undertake regular self-tests and, if a problem is detected, will indicate this by means of a X on the status indicator.

The premises manager will check the AED every month for warning indicators and low battery.

The AED is kept with a number of accessories/consumables to ensure that it is always ready for use.

Where necessary, these will be replaced after every incident.

**Action Plan**

First aider responds to a call

Assess the situation.

Dial 999 to alert the emergency services. (Send a message to the office for someone to dial 999 while first aider stays with the unconscious person.

The emergency services operator can stay on the line and advise on giving CPR and using an AED.)

Early CPR – to create an artificial circulation, if able.

Send for AED

AED - Early defibrillation – to attempt to restore a normal heart rhythm

Continue CPR if necessary

Ambulance - Early post-resuscitation care – to stabilise the patient.