

FAQ's

Could the AED accidentally hurt the victim or anyone else?

No. Most SCA victims will die if they are not treated immediately. Fast actions can **only** help. AED's are designed in such a way, using clever technology, that they will only shock victims who need to be shocked.

Who is at risk for Sudden Cardiac Arrest?

Sudden cardiac arrest is unpredictable and can strike anyone, anywhere, anytime.

Can the AED be used safely if the victim is on a metal surface?

Yes. AED's can be used safely as long as the electrode pads do not come into contact with the metal surface.

Can the AED be used safely on a wet surface?

Yes, as long as the usual safety rules are observed. Keeping the defibrillation electrodes away from contact with the conductive surface. Be sure not to allow anyone to touch the victim when the shock is delivered.

What if the victim has an implantable pacemaker or defibrillator?

If the victim has a pacemaker or internal defibrillator with a battery pack (visible as a lump under the skin about two inches long), avoid placing pads directly on top of the implanted medical device.

Do AED's replace the use of CPR?

No. CPR is still very important and high quality CPR can greatly improve the chances of survival. But on the other hand, CPR on its own will not stop SCA. The victim will die without a shock.

What if I don't perform all the steps of CPR and defibrillation perfectly?

A cardiac arrest is a high stress situation. Even experienced health care providers do not do everything perfectly. In a cardiac arrest, performing CPR, even imperfectly, and using a defibrillator can only help the victim.

Can the first responder get sued?

No. They can not be sued for using an AED to help a victim of Sudden Cardiac Arrest. The AED will analyse the victim's heart and will not deliver a shock if the victim does not need it. Remember, the responder and the AED are the victims' last chance for survival, therefore, anything they do can only help!

FACT: 270 children die in schools every year.

It's because of this frightening fact we now have the facility in school. We find it hard to believe that by law, schools must have a fire extinguisher on premise, but **not** a defibrillator.

Especially when the likelihood of a child suffering a sudden cardiac arrest is far **greater** than a serious fire starting in schools (it seems even more ridiculous when you find out that high proportions of these fires are started after school hours, through arson, while the children aren't even on the premises). There are 30,000 schools in the UK, and approximately 80 have a Defibrillator. Every **single one** of those children not in the 80, are at risk.



We thank
Mr & Mrs Maxfield
who without their
generous donation
this defibrillator
programme would not
be possible.



Longton
Primary
School

**Defibrillator
Installed**



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Foreword from the Headteacher



Julie Brown
Headteacher

Dear Parents,

Over recent years our local news has broadcast far too many fatalities of young children, fatalities that could well have been avoided.

It is from this fact we snapped their hands off when Mr and Mrs Maxfield, members of the Longton Community, visited our school and offered to donate enough money for us to purchase a defibrillator. The money which they have donated in full has now been used to buy a defibrillator and for 16 members of staff to be trained in using the device, if the need arises. Defibrillators are safe, easy to use and cannot do harm to anyone.

Whilst I hope we never have to use the defibrillator, it is great to know that it is there and we have the equipment that could save a child's life, your child, you or a member of your family whilst in school.

The device will be stored in a secure, yet accessible, cabinet and will be maintained on a regular basis.

Wishing good health on you all,

Julie Brown
Headteacher

What is a Defibrillator?

An Automated External Defibrillator (AED) is a portable device that can be deployed in an emergency, and is the only known treatment for a Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA). The device guides the user through visual and audio instructions and uses clever technology to detect when a shock is required and to administer it if necessary. It's safe, easy to use, and provides life-saving support when time is of the essence.

What is Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA)?

It is the sudden, unexpected loss of heart function, breathing and consciousness. To understand SCA, it helps to understand how the heart works. The heart has an electrical system that controls the rate and rhythm of the heartbeat. Problems with the heart's electrical system can cause irregular heartbeats called arrhythmias. There are many types of arrhythmias. During an arrhythmia, the heart can beat too fast, too slow, or with an irregular rhythm. Some arrhythmia can cause the heart to stop pumping blood to the body - these arrhythmias cause SCA.

Is Sudden Cardiac Arrest the same as a heart attack?

No. A heart attack is a condition in which the blood supply to the heart muscle is suddenly blocked, resulting in the death of the heart muscle. Heart attack victims usually (but not always) experience chest pain and usually remain conscious. Heart attacks are serious and sometimes will lead to cardiac arrest. However, sudden cardiac arrest may occur independently from a heart attack and without warning signs. Sudden cardiac arrest results in death if not treated immediately.

Why does my School need one? Surly children aren't at risk from a SCA?

Unfortunately this is untrue, anyone, at any age, are at risk. 12 young people die every week from SCA, while 270 children die in schools because of this. With quick response with an AED those statistics can go well down.

How does a Defibrillator work?

An AED is programmed to tell rescuers exactly what to do using voice and visual prompts. Rescuers attach adhesive electrode pads to the person's chest. Through these electrodes, the AED is designed to automatically analyse the electrical activity of the heart to determine if a "shockable" rhythm is present. An AED is so easy to use even untrained school children can operate one quickly and correctly.

With voice prompts and pictures the AED guides rescuers through the resuscitation process, advising when to give CPR. If a person uses an AED to assist a person who has had a SCA, the AED determines the person's heart needs a shock, it tells rescuers to stand back so a shock can be safely given through the adhesive electrode pads affixed to the person's chest and then all they need to do is push a button to shock.

The delivery of an electrical shock to a heart experiencing SCA briefly stops all electrical activity in the heart. This brief break from the previous electrical chaos can be enough for the heart to restart with a normal rhythm. Not everyone can be saved from SCA, even with defibrillation. But early defibrillation, especially when delivered within three to five minutes of a person's collapse from SCA, does provide the best chance for survival. It's that simple.

Why are AED's important?

Immediate response to cardiac arrest with an AED can make the difference between life and death. According to statistics, in out-of-hospital settings when defibrillation with an AED is administered within the first three to five minutes of a SCA victim's collapse, an average survival rate of 74% can be achieved. When a victim experiences SCA, every minute counts; for every minute that a victim goes without defibrillation, his/her chance for survival decreases by 7-10%. Having AED's deployed at easily accessible locations can allow on site trained individuals to deliver potentially lifesaving defibrillation therapy quickly and effectively. Rescuers must remember that if nothing is done for a cardiac arrest victim, he/she will most likely die.