

Royal College of Nursing briefing ahead of Second Reading of the Compulsory Emergency First Aid Education (State-Funded Secondary Schools) Bill

With a membership of more than 430,000 registered nurses, midwives, health visitors, nursing students, health care assistants and nurse cadets, the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) is the voice of nursing across the UK and the largest professional union of nursing staff in the world. RCN members work in a variety of hospital and community settings in the NHS and the independent sector. The RCN promotes patient and nursing interests on a wide range of issues by working closely with the Government, the UK parliaments and other national and European political institutions, trade unions, professional bodies and voluntary organisations.

The RCN's position on the Bill

The RCN supports the proposals in this bill. Mortality statistics show that around 6000 people die each year from accidents in the home.¹ Nursing staff see first-hand the consequences of people not knowing what to do in emergency situations where time is critical, and can mean the difference between life and death. Delays in receiving emergency first aid treatment can lead to serious long-term health effects, and death.

The RCN commends the *Every Child a Lifesaver* campaign⁴, by St John Ambulance, the British Heart Foundation and the British Red Cross, which seeks to include emergency first aid education on the national curriculum secondary schools.

November 2015

For further information please contact: