

To : All Primary Schools  
Comprehensive Schools  
Property Services

Terry Phillips  
01443 864858

**Circular No's. 43/06**

12<sup>th</sup> April 2006

Dear Colleague

**Re: School Handrails and Barriers**

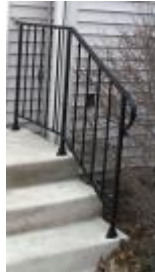
A number of accidents have occurred recently when pupils swivel over handrail bars. They have either, lost grip and fallen off or they have cracked their head or face into a concrete step or ramp.

Please would you check your site to determine if you have any handrails similar to the type below?



If you have the above type you need to consider a programme of replacement or adaption to a type that is not such a lure to children to swing and swivel on, yet provides the same fall and grip protection. Individual schools based on their priorities and budgets will decide the timing of any replacements.

It is suggested that any similar type of barrier with handrail as below would be a suitable alternative.



The vertical bars will deter children from swinging on the top handrail and as there is no mid – rail it removes the opportunity for children to stand on it and lever themselves over the top hand rail.

Another alternative is to use a clip and welded metal mesh which fits in between the upper and mid rails. This may be a more cost effective option.

Please review all the handrails on your site (including external railing at steep bank areas) and where necessary consider changing or adapting the design. Also if new handrails are to be installed please request those with vertical bars (as above).

Yours sincerely

**Terry Phillips**  
**Health and Safety Officer**  
**Directorate of Education and Leisure**