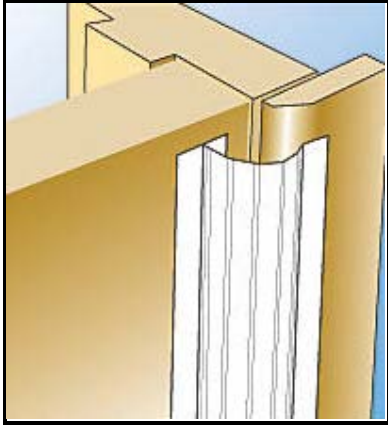


Safety Alert No 6

Finger entrapment



In a recent incident in one of our buildings, a pupil trapped their fingers in a toilet door. Finger entrapment can cause injuries ranging from crushing, bruising and fractures to in more serious cases amputation. The risk of finger entrapment would be higher in young children (nursery, foundation, and key stage 1), and children with special needs.

Finger entrapments which occur on the latch side of the door can be prevented by making adjustments to the door closure mechanism. For finger trapping hazards at the hinge side of a door the use of a finger protection device (finger guard) that either fills the finger trap or minimises the gap so as not to create a finger trap can be installed.

Principals should ensure that a risk assessment for all doors within their school, both internal and external, has been completed.

An order should be placed on the helpdesk for the repair of any defects noted. The school should contact their local EA maintenance officer for advice on the installation of a finger guard where a need has been identified (please note that this would be a school cost).

A procedure should also be put in place for the brief visual inspection of doors on a regular basis so that remedial action can be taken. Also staff should be encouraged to report any defects noticed, and calls logged promptly on the helpdesk.