

Pupil Sickness Policy

Responsibility for Policy: Elizabeth Johnson

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“Nurture Today for an Outstanding Tomorrow”

**Pupil Sickness Policy**

**1.Introduction**

This policy outlines procedures to be followed in the event of a pupil illness. As illnesses are diverse in nature it will not be able to cover all eventualities. Making sure your child attends school is your legal responsibility as a parent/guardian. It is also crucial for your child‛s education and future. Full attendance lets your child make the most of their education. Children who miss days at school risk not understanding classes and performing poorly in exams. By law, only the school can authorise your child‛s absence. It‛s important to keep the school informed if your child is going to be absent.

**2.Absence Reporting Procedure**

There is a clear process for you to follow to inform the school that your child will not be attending:

* Parent/guardian phone the school office to inform school that their child is absent and of the cause of the absence. If there is no answer, then please leave a message.
* If the school receives no phone call, school will phone home to ascertain the child‛s whereabouts and reason for absence.

 **3.Decisions regarding attendance or absence**

Use common sense when deciding whether or not your child is too ill to attend school.

Ask yourself:

* Is your child well enough to carry out the activities of the school day? If not, keep your child at home.
* Does your child have a condition that could be passed on to other children or school staff? If so, keep your child at home.
* Would you take a day off work if you had this condition? If so, keep your child at home.

***\*Always follow the current government guidelines for Coronavirus\****

**Common Conditions**

**Cough & cold** – a child with a minor cough or cold may attend school. If the cold is accompanied by shivers or drowsiness, the child should stay off school, and return to school 24 hours after they are feeling better.

**Raised temperature** – if your child has a raised temperature or is feeling ill with signs of an acute illness, they should not attend school. They can return when they are feeling better. This is particularly important as it is one of the symptoms of Coronavirus so appropriate testing according to guidelines should be followed.

**Rash** – rashes can be the first sign of many infectious illnesses such as chickenpox and measles. Children with these conditions should not attend school. If your child has a rash, check with your GP or Practice Nurse before sending them to school.

**Headaches** – a child with a minor headache does not usually need to be kept off school. If the headache is more severe or is accompanied by other symptoms such as raised temperature or drowsiness, then keep the child off school and consult your GP.

**Vomiting and Diarrhoea** – children with these conditions should be kept off school. They can return 48 hours after their symptoms have settled. Most cases get better without treatment, but if symptoms persist consult your GP.

**Vomiting** - If your child vomits and then feels well, eats and drinks normally, and shows no other symptoms, they can be at school. If your child shows any other symptoms they must be 12 hrs free of any sickness or unwell feelings before they can return to school. If they return too soon and are unwell or sick again, parents will be contacted to immediately pick them up from school.

**Sore throat** – a child with a sore throat alone does not have to be kept from school. If your child is feeling ill with it, the child should stay at home.

To minimise the risk of transmission of infection to other children, and staff, the following guidelines are suggested.

**Chickenpox and shingles** - pupils should stay at home for 5 days after onset of the rash.

**Conjunctivitis** (pink eye)- pupils should stay away if eye is discharging until treated for 24 hours and/or eye(s) appear normal again

**German Measles (Rubella) or Measles** - 5 days from onset of rash and until child feels well

**Headlice** - No period of exclusion but helpful to let school know

**Impetigo** - Once the spots have crusted or healed or 48 hours of antibiotics and the child feels well

**Mumps** - 7 days from onset of swollen glands and child feels well

**Scabies** - Child can return to school the day after treated

**Scarlet Fever** - When child feels well, and 48 hours after start of antibiotics

**Threadworm** - Child may return the day after treatment

**Verruca** - Child does not need to stay away from school and can go swimming if verruca is covered with a waterproof plaster

**Whooping Cough** - 5 days from commencing antibiotics or 21 days without treatment If in any doubt, professional medical advice should be sought.

Pupils who become Unwell at School If a child becomes ill at school, every effort will be made to contact their parents/ guardians and failing that, their emergency contacts. It is therefore important to keep the school informed of any changes to home/mobile nos. or any change of home arrangements. Any significant injury or accident will be reported to the parent immediately.

**5.Administration of Medication Policy**

For children who require medication during the school day, our separate School Medication policy requires that parents, sending medication to school , must do so, in the original container, it should be clearly labelled, and within its expiry date. It is the responsibility of the parent to ensure that medications held, are within their expiry date. Medications must be dispensed and stored in the locked medicine cabinet. There is a supply of basic first aid equipment held in the school. Full details are contained in the School Medication Policy. We hope that this Policy offers you some help in assessing whether or not to send your child to school in the event that they may not be well. In issuing these guidelines, we wish to reassure you that your child‛s health is important to us too.

**6.Monitoring and review**

This policy was written after seeking advice from a pediatric consultant at the RVI hospital. We are aware of the need to review the school Pupil Illness Policy regularly so that we can take account of any new initiatives, changes in legislation, developments in medicine or changes to the physical environment of the school.