



Policy No. 35

Managing Children who are Sick or Infectious

Policy

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“You are the salt of the earth...you are the light of the world.” Matthew 5 13-15

Policy Statement

We provide care for healthy children and promote health through preventing cross infection of viruses and bacterial infections. We aim to make children, parents and staff aware of the importance of practising good hygiene to minimise the risk of spreading infection.

Parents are asked to keep their child at home if they are ill or have any infection. Parents should inform the School as to the nature of the illness or infection so that other parents can be alerted and make careful observations of any child who seems unwell. We will refuse admittance to a child who has a temperature, sickness or diarrhoea, or a contagious infection or disease.

Procedures for Children who are Sick or Infectious

We follow the “Guidance of infection control in Schools and other childcare settings” published by Public Health England (PHE). Parents are asked to adhere to the guidance given in respect of excludable rashes, infections, diarrhoea and vomiting illnesses, respiratory infections and other infections listed in this document together with their current exclusion times. The full list is obtainable from the School Office and includes common childhood illnesses such as measles and chicken pox.

- If a parent has found the need to administer Calpol, Nurofen or an equivalent medicine to their child, parents are requested to keep their child at home and monitor their condition.
- We may only administer medicines prescribed by a child’s GP that require to be taken four times a day (Please see our Health and Safety Policy including First Aid and and Supporting pupils with Medical Condition Policy) and only after Parent has given written permission by completing a ‘Permission to administer medicines’ form.
- When a child has been prescribed antibiotics to be taken 3 times per day – this dosage can be taken outside of school hours e.g. breakfast, tea and at bedtime. When antibiotics are prescribed to be taken 4 times per day, then School staff will administer the lunchtime dose, before food is taken. Parents must bring in the antibiotics in the original packaging from the Surgery/ Pharmacy.
- Unwell children of school staff will not accompany their parents to work in the school.

Diarrhoea and Vomiting

Parents must keep their child away from School for at least 48 hours from the last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting.

Parents must also report if their child has diarrhoea or vomiting to a member of staff so that we can make other parents aware. This is done confidentially, and no names are mentioned.

Conjunctivitis

Current government guidance states that exclusion from school is not necessary if a child has conjunctivitis. Bacterial conjunctivitis usually resolves on its own in most cases, but on some occasions, antibiotics are prescribed.

Parents should allow symptoms to resolve before seeking antibiotics from their GP or purchasing antibiotic eye drops from a Pharmacy. Parents are advised to treat their child using sterile water (boiled & let cool down) and cotton wool, wiping each eye from inside to outside, using a clean piece of cotton wool for each eye.

Head Lice and Nits

Head lice are a common problem in children, and they are largely harmless but can live in hair for a long time if not properly treated and can be irritating and frustrating to deal with. Exclusion from School is generally not necessary for a child with this condition as it is unlikely to help prevent the spread of head lice. However, if a child is found to have head lice, it is important for parents to begin treatment straightaway and before the child returns to School. Prompt treatment action is requested so that we reduce the risk of head lice being passed on to others.

Parents must also report if their child has head lice to a member of staff so that we can make other parents aware. This is done confidentially, and no names are mentioned.

Please be aware that it is the parent's responsibility to check their child's hair regularly and treat it as soon as possible if any head lice are found. Please note that staff are unable to check through a child's hair for you in case of head lice dropping off on to clothes, toys or their own hair. This is our prevention procedure.

Procedures for Children who are Unwell at School

If a child appears unwell during a session at School - for example, has a temperature, sickness, diarrhoea or pains, particularly in the head or stomach – the parents are called and asked to collect their child straightaway, or to send a known carer to collect on their behalf.

A child's temperature is taken using a digital thermometer kept near to the first aid area.

If a child has a temperature e.g. 37.8°C, they are kept cool by removing top clothing and given a drink but are kept away from draughts.

In extreme cases of emergency, the Ambulance Service will be contacted via 999, and depending upon their directions, the child may be taken to the nearest hospital and the parent is informed.

HIV/AIDS/Hepatitis Procedure

HIV virus, like other viruses such as Hepatitis, (A, B and C) are spread through body fluids. Hygiene precautions for dealing with body fluids are the same for all children and adults:

- Single use vinyl gloves and aprons are worn when changing children's nappies, pants and clothing that are soiled with blood, urine, faeces or vomit.

- Protective rubber gloves are used for rinsing clothing after changing.
- Soiled clothing is rinsed and bagged for parents to collect.
- Spills of blood, urine, faeces or vomit are cleared using mild disinfectant/ bleach-based solution and mops; cloths used are disposed of.
- Tables and other furniture, furnishings or toys affected by blood, urine, faeces or vomit are cleaned using an antibacterial cleaner and bleach-based solution.

Pandemics e.g. Swine Flu or COVID19) Infection Control

We will adopt & work through the hierarchy of measures set out in [implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings](#):

1. avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms
2. frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices
3. regular cleaning of settings
4. minimising contact and mixing

We limit the risk of catching or spreading the virus by:

- Ensuring that the hygiene requirements of our “Health and Safety Policy” are adhered to.
- Asking parents to keep any child with symptoms of the virus at home until they are clear of the symptoms.
- Instructing staff to remain at home if they display any relevant virus symptoms or sending them home if they first display symptoms while at work.
- Regular hand washing for 20 seconds minimum.
- Minimising contact between our hands and mouth/nose.
- Covering nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, using a tissue and disposing of the tissue promptly and carefully.
- Encouraging children to follow the guidance above.
- Displaying posters to encourage good practice of hygiene and to promote infection control.
- Isolating any child who becomes ill with symptoms of the virus from other children/staff until the child can be collected by their parents.
- Advising anyone who thinks they may have been in contact with the virus to seek appropriate advice at that time.

School Setting Closure

The latest Government advice is that closing individual School settings is of limited benefit in stopping the spread of viruses. However, we will close the School setting if advised to do so by Government/ the Local Authority/ PHE in the interests of safeguarding children in our care or if we have too few unaffected staff to run the site safely.