

**13**

**St Paul's Cathedral School**

**PUPIL ILLNESS POLICY**

**September 2022**

# AIMS & PRINCIPLES

***St Paul's Cathedral School is a Christian, co-educational community which holds to the values of love, justice, tolerance, respect, honesty, service and trust in its life and practice, to promote positive relationships throughout the school community and where the safety, welfare and emotional well-being of each child is of the utmost importance.***

*The school aims to instil a love of learning through a broad curriculum. It aims to give each pupil the opportunity to develop intellectually, socially, personally, physically, culturally and spiritually. All pupils are encouraged to work to the best of their ability and to achieve standards of excellence in all of their endeavours.*

*Through the corporate life of the school, and through good pastoral care, the school encourages the independence of the individual as well as mutual responsibility. It aims to make its pupils aware of the wider community, espouses the democratic process and encourages a close working relationship with parents and guardians.*

**This Policy is designed to cover the Early Years Foundation Stage and Years 1-8 and has regard to the DfE Guidance on First Aid. Staff should also refer to the associated policies for additional guidance.**

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

This policy outlines procedures to be followed in the event of a pupil illness. As illnesses are diverse in nature it will not cover all eventualities. It also does not cover children with a known medical condition, who have a logged care plan with the school. The school has sought the advice of the school nurse in the preparation of this policy. The purpose of this policy is to:-

- ensure sick children are identified
- ensure sick children are cared for appropriately
- protect children and adults from preventable infections
- enable staff and parents to be clear about the requirements and procedures when children are unwell
- give guidance to parents and carers so they understand the recommended time scales for keeping children off school in case of a common illness

Making sure your child attends school regularly is your legal responsibility as a parent/guardian. It is also crucial for your child's education and future. Full attendance enables your child to make the most of their education. Children who miss days at school risk not understanding classes and not making expected progress. 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 because they are ill.

## **2. ABSENCE REPORTING PROCEDURE**

There is a clear process for you to follow to inform the school that your child may not be attending because they are ill:

1. The parent/carer must telephone or email the school by 9:00am to inform them that their child is absent and the cause of the absence. The school will ask for the nature of the illness (in the case of sickness/diarrhoea, the checklist in Appendix A will be used) and the expected duration of the absence. The administrator will give guidance on the recommended length of absence if appropriate. The absence will be logged in the school register. Parents coming into school to drop off siblings of the sick child must inform the office of the absence.

2. If the school does not receive a phone call, within the above timeframes, from a parent/ guardian the school will phone home to ascertain the child's whereabouts and reason for absence. If the school can't contact the parent at home, school will contact emergency contacts until the whereabouts of the child and their well-being can be confirmed. This is part of our safeguarding procedures.

### **3. DECISIONS REGARDING ATTENDANCE OR ABSENCE**

Common sense is the best guide when deciding whether or not to send your child to school.

Ask yourself:-

Is your child well enough to join in the varied activities of the school day? (The school cannot always offer to supervise your child if you do not think they can go outside at playtimes).

**If not keep your child at home.**

Does your child have a condition that can be passed on to other children or 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.**

### **4. COMMON CONDITIONS**

Most conditions can be classified as one of a few minor health conditions. Whether or not you send your child to school will depend how serious you judge the illness to be. This guidance can help you make that judgement.

**Coughs and Colds** – a child with a minor cold or cough may attend school. If the cold is accompanied by shivers, drowsiness or a fever please keep your child away from school until the symptoms have been reduced and your child feels well enough to join in with a normal school day – usually 24 to 48 hrs. If your child has a severe cough it is best to consult your GP, who can provide guidance as to whether the child should stay at home. A severe cough can be debilitating for the child, interrupt lessons and your child will not be at their best.

**Raised temperature** – if your child has a raised temperature they should not attend school until the temperature has returned to normal and they feel better. Please note that their temperature should remain within the normal range without fever reducing medication having been administered.

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

**Headaches** – a child with a minor headache does not normally need to be kept off school. If the headache is accompanied by a fever or rash, then keep your child off school and consult your GP.

### **Vomiting and diarrhoea -**

Non-viral

Children can be sick for many reasons – eating too many sweets and fizzy pop, eating a food which disagrees with them; you know your child and whether any of the above have caused the sickness. Some children also have specific intolerances to certain foods; they may be sick or have diarrhoea but are then well once the offending food has left their system. If any of the above are the reason for the vomiting then the child may return to school once they feel well – after 24 hrs.

### **Viral conditions -**

Vomiting can also be caused by a viral condition. It is this form of sickness that concerns us most as we do not want other children to be infected and viral conditions can spread through a school quickly. If you cannot identify a reason for your child's sickness and perhaps other members of the family have been ill, the sickness is accompanied by a fever, listlessness, a temperature and a general feeling of being unwell do not send your child to school for **48 hrs following the last incident of vomiting or diarrhoea**. Some children recover very quickly and may appear to be well after 24 hrs but if the vomiting was not linked to over eating or type of food eaten please keep your child away from school for the full 48 hrs just in case they are still carrying the virus.

If you return your child to school before the 48 hrs and the cause of the vomiting is known to be viral, the school will ask you to take your child home for another day even if they appear well.

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

If your child has not been their normal self at home but is not showing signs of illness when brought to school, parents should mention this to staff and ensure that contact details are correct and that they are obtainable.

To minimise the risk of transmission of infection to other children, and staff, the following guidelines are suggested. This list is not exhaustive and the school nurse can be contacted should you have any questions requiring clarification.

Disease/Illness	Minimal Exclusion Period
Chicken pox and shingles	Until all vesicles have crusted over. Immuno-compromised children/adults – should take separate advice from their GP
German measles – rubella	4 days from the onset of the rash and until the child feels well
Impetigo	Once the spots have crusted over or healed, or 48 hours of antibiotics and the child feels well
Measles	4 day from the onset of the rash
Scabies	Child can return after first treatment
Scarlet Fever	Child can return 24 hours after commencing appropriate antibiotic treatment
Slapped cheek/ fifth disease. Parvovirus	No exclusion once rash has developed  Immuno-compromised children/adults – should take separate advice from their GP
Shingles	Exclude only if rash is weeping and cannot be covered
Diarrhoea & vomiting	Please see advice above. Or in the case of viral conditions – until there has been no diarrhoea or vomiting for 48 hrs
E. coli  Cryptosporidiosis	Should be excluded for 48 hours from the last episode of diarrhoea
Flu (influenza)	Until recovered
Whooping cough	48 hours from commencing antibiotic treatment or 21 days from onset of illness if no antibiotic treatment
Conjunctivitis	None

Diphtheria	Exclusion is essential until cleared to return
Hepatitis A	Excluded until seven days after onset of jaundice (or seven days after symptom onset if no jaundice)
Meningococcal Meningitis / Septicaemia	Until recovered
Meningitis due to other bacteria	Until recovered
Mumps	5 days from the onset of swollen glands and the child feels well
Headlice	No exclusion but please treat immediately and inform school

## **5. WHAT WILL THE SCHOOL DO IF A CHILD IS ILL IN SCHOOL**

If a child complains of feeling unwell the staff will initially monitor their condition and keep them comfortable depending on their symptoms. Sometimes getting some fresh air, sitting quietly for 10 minutes settles the child and they may recover. If a child is still feeling unwell they will be seen by the Nurse or First Aider. If a decision is made to send a child home the parents/carers will be contacted in the order they appear on the schools emergency contact list. In the meantime the child will be kept as comfortable as possible until a parent arrives. If the Nurse or First Aider considers the illness/situation to warrant immediate medical attention, they will contact emergency services or take the child directly to hospital and the carer or parent notified accordingly.

## **6. COLLECTING A SICK CHILD FROM SCHOOL**

The school Nurse or First Aider will describe the child's symptoms and any treatment given and direct the parent to this policy on the school website. The child will be signed out of school and relevant staff notified.

If a child is returned to school and staff feel that the child is still unwell, we reserve the right to either ask the parent to take the child home again or contact the parent to collect their child from school.

## **7. ADMINISTERING MEDICINES IN SCHOOL**

On the rare occasions that children need medication during the school day a written parental consent form needs to be completed which is available from the school office.

As a general rule:

The school will only administer prescribed medicines that cannot be given outside the school day. For antibiotics that need to be given 3 times a day – these can be given before school, after school and at bedtime so there would be no need for staff to administer the medicine in school.

The school will not, under any circumstances, administer any Paracetamol or Ibuprofen unless express permission has been sought and obtained.

September 2022