



10th March 2022

School Absence – Guidance for Parents/Carers

Frequent absence is a serious problem for pupils as often much of the work they miss is not made up, leaving these pupils at a significant disadvantage for the remainder of their school career. There is a clear link between poor school attendance and low levels of achievement.

Recently, the main reason for absence has been in relation to Covid however, this letter addresses other illnesses. When deciding whether or not your child is too unwell to attend school ask yourself the following questions:

- Is my child well enough to do the activities of the school day?
- Does my child have a condition that could be passed on to other children or school staff?
- Would I take the day off if I had this condition?

Do not keep your child away from school 'just in case' when they could be in class learning with their friends.

Where possible please make medical appointments outside of school time. However, if your child has an appointment during school time you should take an appointment card or letter to the school office so your child's absence is authorised.



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Common Conditions

Please bear the following guidance in mind when your child is ill.

- Chicken pox

Children should be kept at home for 5 days from the onset of the rash.

- Coughs, colds

A child with a minor cough or cold may attend school. If the cold is accompanied by a raised temperature, shivers or drowsiness, they should stay at home and you should seek medical advice. Please see covid below.

- Covid

If your child has covid symptoms, they should take a LFT test and if positive, self isolate for 5 days. On the 5th day and 6th day take a LFT test – if negative they can return to school on the 6th day. If they remain positive your child is required to have two negative tests before returning to school up to 10 days from the initial test.

- Earache

Medical advice should be sought.

- Headache

A child with a headache does not normally need to be absent from school. If the headache is more severe and accompanied by other symptoms, you should seek medical advice. Please see covid above.

- Rashes

Rashes can be the first sign of many infectious diseases. If your child has a rash, check with a pharmacist, practice nurse or GP before sending them to school.

- Toothache

School attendance should be maintained until your child can be seen by a dentist.

- Vomiting and/or diarrhoea

Children with these symptoms should be kept at home for 48 hours after their symptoms have gone. If symptoms persist or recur medical advice should be sought.

There is no reason for your child to be absent from school for minor ailments such as:

- Athletes foot
- Cold sores
- Conjunctivitis
- Hand, foot and mouth
- Head Lice
- Period pains
- Ringworm
- Slapped cheek
- Sore throat
- Threadworms
- Tonsillitis
- Warts & Verrucae

More Serious conditions

This is not an exhaustive list. If your child is diagnosed with any of the following please speak to the school office.

- Asthma
- Broken Bones
- Eczema
- Glandular fever
- Impetigo
- Raised temperature