



Sick Child Policy

2026 - 2028

Policy issue and updates

Pages	Issue No.	Date
Whole Document – new format and template used.	1	August 2026

The following policy has been approved by the Divisional CEO and Governing Board of Directors.

The policy will be reviewed on a biennial basis unless circumstances arise requiring the policy to be reviewed earlier.

Approved by Executive Team: August 2026

Board signatory: 

Planned review: August 2028

1. Policy overview

- 1.1 We recognise our responsibility to promote a learning environment that is safe and healthy for all. To maintain a clean and healthy environment this policy provides guidance for staff and parents as to when students should or should not be in school if showing signs of sickness. The health and well-being of all students is of paramount importance to enable them to be successful learners in everything they do.
- 1.2 The purpose of this policy is to:
- To ensure that sick children are appropriately and correctly identified.
 - To ensure sick children are cared for appropriately.
 - To protect children and adults from preventable infection.
 - To enable staff and parents to be clear about the requirements and procedures when children are unwell.

2. Actions

- 2.1 Students should not be brought to school if they are displaying signs of illness. If parents do bring students to school and staff feel that they are unfit for school, parents/carers/emergency contacts will be contacted and requested to come and collect their child and requested not to return their child to school until symptom free.
- 2.2 If a student is thought to be unwell while at school, they will be seen by a qualified first aider as the condition of the child needs to be assessed. This will be done in a kind and caring manner. The child may be distressed, so it is important to be calm and reassuring. The Head of School will be informed of any sick students.
- 2.3 We understand the needs of working parents and do not aim to exclude students from school unnecessarily. However, the decision of school is final when requesting that a student is collected due to illness or infection. Decisions will consider the needs of the student and those of the other students and staff in school.
- 2.4 Students with infectious or contagious diseases will not be permitted to attend for certain periods. If staff suspect that a student has an infectious or contagious disease, they will request that parents/carers consult a doctor before returning their child to school and the school may seek advice from the Health Protection Agency.

- 2.5 Should a student become ill whilst at school a member of staff will contact the parent/carer/emergency contact. While awaiting the arrival of parents/carers, the staff will ensure the comfort of the student, taking appropriate action, which would include seeking medical advice if necessary. If the student is in danger, the staff will seek medical advice immediately. Staff will report any worries about a student's health to the parents/carers immediately. Parents are responsible for keeping the school informed about their child's health.
- 2.5.1 Should assessment deem the student requires medical attention; a teacher will accompany them and assume responsibility until a parent arrives.
- 2.6 We recommend that students do not attend school while suffering from one of the communicable diseases and they should remain at home for the minimum periods recommended by their doctor.
- 2.7 Coughs and colds do not normally require the student to be absent from school, but this depends on the severity and how the student is able to cope with the school routine. A student who is, or appears to be, unwell may be refused admission.
- 2.8 A student who has sickness or diarrhoea whilst at school (or at home) should be collected immediately and kept absent from school for 48 hours following the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea.
- 2.8.1 This 48-hour rule is essential to protect other students or staff from contracting a bug. Unfortunately, this may mean that a student misses a school event.
- 2.9 To prevent the spread of conjunctivitis, suspected cases will be reported immediately to parents/carers who will be requested to take their child from school to seek medical advice from a GP or Pharmacist. When treatment commences, the student may return to school.
- 2.10 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 contactable should the child's health deteriorate.
- 2.11 Should a member of staff consider an illness / situation to warrant immediate medical attention; they will report to a First Aider and Head of School who will contact emergency services and the parent/carer to let them know where their child has been taken for treatment.