

Barrow CEVC Primary School

Inspire, Create, Discover, Together

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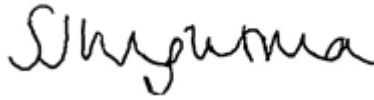
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Headteacher: Mrs H Ashe BA (Hons)

Illness Policy

Originated by:	Sarah Wightman
Reviewed by:	Nadine Fairweather
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Distributed to:	All Staff
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Adopted at Governors' Meeting	November 2024
Signature of Chair of Governors:	
Next review date	Autumn 2026

AIM

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 purpose of this policy is to:-

- To ensure sick children are identified
- To ensure sick children are cared for appropriately
- To protect children and adults from preventable infections
- To enable staff and parents to be clear about the requirements and procedures when children are unwell
- To 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 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.

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 the school before 9.15am to inform the school that their child is absent and the cause of the absence. The school will ask for the nature of the illness and the expected duration of the absence. The administrator will give guidance on the recommended length of absence if appropriate. This phone call is logged in the office "Sickness Log" book. Parents coming into school to drop off siblings of the sick child must inform the office of the absence as well as the respective teacher.
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 cannot 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.

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.

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.

Respiratory infections including Covid 19

Coughs and Colds – a child with a minor cold or cough may attend school. If the cold is accompanied by shivers, drowsiness, fever loss of sense of smell or taste, 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 tests positive for Covid 19, current government advice states “If a child or young person has a positive COVID-19 test result they should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day they took the test, if they can.” 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 are feeling better.

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, 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 hours just in case they are still carrying the virus.

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.

DISEASE/ILLNESS MINIMUM EXCLUSION PERIOD

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

Chicken pox and shingles - 5 days after the onset of the rash. Immuno-compromised children/adults – should take separate advice from their GP.

Conjunctivitis - child should stay away if the eye is discharging until treated for 24 hrs and/or eyes appear normal again.

Diarrhoea & Vomiting Please see advice above. Or in the case of viral conditions – until there has been no diarrhoea or vomiting for 48 hrs.

German Measles/Rubella - 5 days from the onset of the rash and until the child feels well.

Headlice - No exclusion but please treat immediately and inform school.

Impetigo - once the spots have crusted over or healed or 48 hours of antibiotics and the child feels well.

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

Scabies - Child may return to school the day after treatment.

WHAT WILL THE SCHOOL DO IF A CHILD IS ILL IN SCHOOL?

PLEASE SEE APPENDIX B FOR MANAGING SUSPECTED & CONFIRMED COVID 19 CASES 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 a 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 or carer arrives.

If the member of staff considers the illness/situation to warrant immediate medical attention, they will report to the Headteacher or deputy, who will contact emergency services or take the child directly to hospital and the carer or parent notified accordingly.

COLLECTING A SICK CHILD FROM SCHOOL

A member of staff will describe the child's symptoms, any treatment given and direct the parent to this policy on the school website before bringing the child back to school. The parent/ carer will be asked to sign their child out of school using the "Sign In" electronic APP.

If a child returns 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 or contact the parent to collect the child.

ADMINISTERING MEDICINE IN SCHOOL - Please refer to our separate policy.

The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Part A :- SCREENING EIA							
General Information							
1. Title of the policy or practice being assessed:							
Illness School Policy							
2. Aim(s) of the policy or practice being assessed:							
All staff understand the illnesses that affect pupils at this school and they know the appropriate actions needed to mitigate the impact of illness on a child's education. To provide parents/ carers with clear guidance on the actions needed if their child is ill.							
3. Type of policy or practice being assessed:							
Existing				Proposed			
✓							
4. Name of person responsible:							
For the policy or practice				For completing this EIA			
Nadine Fairweather				Nadine Fairweather			
5. Which members of our school community are affected/likely to be affected by the policy or practice?							
Pupils	Staff	Parents and carers	Governors	School volunteers	Visitors to the school	Other –	
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
6. Does or could this policy have a negative impact on any of the following?							
Age	Disability	Gender	Gender identity	Pregnancy or maternity	Race	Religion or belief	Sexual orientation
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Undertake a full EIA if any answer is 'yes' or 'not sure'.</i>							
7. Does or could this policy help promote equality for any of the following?							
Age	Disability	Gender	Gender identity	Pregnancy or maternity	Race	Religion or belief	Sexual orientation
<i>Undertake a full EIA if any answer is 'no' or 'not sure'.</i>							
<i>Any adverse impacts are explored in Part B :- the Full Impact Assessment below.</i>							