

MEDICAL ADVICE

Dear Parents/Carer

Children of school age commonly suffer from infectious diseases. Most of these are mild, short-lived illnesses in the majority of children but the problem is they easily spread within the school setting. In order to reduce the chance of your child being ill at school and to reduce the spread of infectious disease within school, it would be helpful for you to follow these guidelines.

Please ensure the school has up to date information on where parents may be reached during the day, you child's GP and the name of a trusted person to be contacted in an emergency, should your child become ill at school.

Please inform us, before 9:15am, of the reason for your child's absence from school.

Children should not attend school when they have any of the following symptoms:

- **Diarrhoea** – To reduce the spread of diarrhoeal illness, children must be kept home until 48 hours after the last loose stool.
- **Vomiting** – can spread easily amongst young children. To reduce the spread of vomiting, children must be kept home until 48 hours after they last vomit.
- **Persistent and strange sounding cough**
- **Yellowish skin or eyes** (Jaundice)
- **Headache and Stiff neck** – particularly if your child is irritable and generally unwell
- **Pinkeye** – eyes may be sore and sticky
- **Unusual spots or rashes**
- **Sore throat** – or trouble swallowing
- **Infected skin patches**
- **Severe Itching** - of body or scalp (except for eczema)

You should contact your GP (family doctor) for any further advice, particularly if symptoms are severe or persistent. Please pass on information regarding the diagnosis to the school. The length of time your child should stay off school depends upon the cause of the illness (there are recommended exclusion periods for particular conditions), how long the symptoms last and how quickly your child recovers.

Managing prescription medicines which need to be taken during the school day

If your child requires medicine during the school day (administered 4 times in the day) it must be prescribed by a Doctor and be in the correct container. A form needs to be filled in by the adult/carer with a member of staff.

Short-term prescription requirements should only be brought into school if it is detrimental to the child's health not to have medicine during the school day. If the period of administering medicine is 8 days or more, there must be an individual Health Care Plan.

The school will **NOT** accept medicines that have been taken out of the container as originally dispensed nor make changes to prescribed dosage.

The school will not administer medicines that have not been prescribed by a doctor, dentist, nurse practitioner or pharmacy prescriber, unless it is done as part of a health care plan.

Medicines should always be provided in the original container as dispensed by a pharmacist and should include the prescribers instructions for administration. In all cases this should include:

- Name of child
- Name of medicine
- Dose
- Method of administration
- Time/frequency of administration
- Any side effects
- Expiry date

All medication that is brought into school needs to be taken to the school office by the child's parents or carer at the start of the school day and will need to be collected by the child's parent or carer at the end of the school day.

Thank you for your co-operation.