

# OAKDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL



## PUPIL ILLNESS

Next Review Date

March 2023

# Pupil Illness Policy

## **1. Introduction**

This policy outlines procedures to be followed in the event of a pupil illness. As illnesses are diverse in nature it will not be able to cover all eventualities.

Making sure your child attends school is your legal responsibility as a parent/guardian. It is also crucial for your child's education and future. Full attendance lets your child make the most of their education. Children who miss days at school risk not understanding classes and performing poorly in exams. 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.

## **2. Absence Reporting Procedure**

There is a clear process for you to follow to inform the school that your child will not be attending:

1. Parent/guardian contacts the school office between **8.00 and 9.15am (Tel: 01733 566237)** to inform school that their child is absent and of the cause of the absence. The school will ask about the nature of the illness and the expected duration of the absence.
2. If the school receives no communication, school phones home to ascertain the child's whereabouts and reason for absence. If school can't contact the parent at home, school will contact other emergency contacts until whereabouts of the child and their well-being can be confirmed.
3. If school can't contact anyone who can confirm the child is safe and well, the school will follow up the absence using information known about the pupil and their specific circumstances.

## **3. Decisions regarding attendance or absence**

Use common sense when deciding whether or not your child is too ill to attend school. Ask yourself:

- Is your child well enough to carry out the activities of the school day? If not, keep your child at home.
- Does your child have a condition that could be passed on to other children or school 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.
- Children returning to school after illness will be expected to participate in all curriculum activities and breaktimes. The school does not offer adult supervision during these times. Please discuss with your child's class teacher if your child has a medical condition which would prevent this and a care plan needs to be put in place.

### **Common Conditions**

Most illnesses can be classified as one of a few minor health conditions. Whether or not you send your child to school will depend on how severe you judge the illness to be. This guidance can help you to make that judgement. If you're concerned about your child's health, please consult a health professional.

- **Covid** – follow LA/Govt guidelines which are regularly updated and sent to parents
- **Rash** – rashes can be the first sign of many infectious illnesses such as chickenpox and measles. Children with these conditions should not attend school. If your child has a rash, check with your GP or Practice Nurse before sending them to school.
- **Headaches** – a child with a minor headache does not usually need to be kept off school. If the headache is more severe or is accompanied by other symptoms such as raised temperature or drowsiness, then keep the child off school and consult your GP.
- **Vomiting and diarrhoea** – children with these conditions should be kept off school. They can return **48 hours after their symptoms have settled**. Most cases get better without treatment, but if symptoms persist consult your GP.
- **Sore throat** – a child with a sore throat alone does not have to be kept from school. If your child is feeling ill with it, the child should stay at home.  
To minimise the risk of transmission of infection to other children, and staff, the following guidelines are suggested.

#### **DISEASE/ILLNESS MINIMAL EXCLUSION PERIOD**

- **Chickenpox and shingles** - 5 days after onset of the rash and spots have crusted over. Immuno-compromised children/adults – should take separate advice from their GP.
- **Conjunctivitis** (pink eye) - No recommended period to be kept away from school but consult your doctor.
- **Diarrhoea & Vomiting** - Until there has been no diarrhoea or vomiting for 48 hours.
- **German Measles** (Rubella) or Measles - 4 days from onset of rash and until child feels well.
- **Head lice** - No period of exclusion but helpful to let school know.
- **Impetigo** - Once the spots have crusted or healed or 48 hours of antibiotics and the child feels well.
- **Mumps** - 5 days from onset of swollen glands and child feels well.
- **Ringworm** - Exclusion not usually required-Treatment required.
- **Scabies** - Child can return to school the day after treatment.
- **Slapped cheek** - No recommended period to be kept away from school once rash has developed. Immuno-compromised children/adults – should take separate advice from their GP.

#### **DISEASE/ILLNESS MINIMAL EXCLUSION PERIOD**

- **Scarlet Fever** - When child feels well, and 24 hours after start of antibiotics.
- **Threadworm** - Child may return the day after treatment, also treatment recommended for all household contacts.
- **Verruca** - Child does not need to stay away from school and can go swimming if verruca is covered with a waterproof plaster.
- **Whooping Cough** - 5 days from commencing antibiotics or 21 days without treatment.
- **Flu** (Influenza) - Until recovered.

**If in any doubt, professional medical advice should be sought.**

**Other References:** [www.gov.uk/phe](http://www.gov.uk/phe) (phe=Public Health England)

#### 4. Pupils who become Unwell at School

If a child becomes ill at school, every effort will be made to contact their parents/ guardians and failing that, their emergency contacts. It is therefore important to keep the school informed of any changes to home/mobile nos. or any change of home arrangements.

Teaching/support staff should make sure the ill child is cared for and after informing the Head teacher about the child, then ring the parents/guardians.

In the event of a pupil having an accident during school hours, the first aiders will assess the severity of the accident and make the decision to apply first aid if appropriate. Any significant injury or accident an ambulance will be called and the parent will be informed immediately. If the parent does not make it to the school in time to go to hospital with their child, a member of staff will accompany the child to hospital and stay with the child until the parents arrive.

#### 5. Administration of Medication Policy

For children who require medication during the school day, our **Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions policy** requires that parents, bringing medication to the school Office, must do so, in the original container, it should be clearly labelled, and within its expiry date. It is the responsibility of the parent to ensure that medications held, are within their expiry date. It is the responsibility of the parents to retrieve any medication from the office at the end of the school day.

Medications are stored in the fridge or medicine cabinet in the school staff room where they are also dispensed and logged in the **Administering medication to children book**.

There is a supply of basic first aid equipment held in the school.

We hope that this Policy offers you some help in assessing whether or not to send your child to school in the event that they may not be well. In issuing these guidelines, we wish to reassure you that your child's health is important to us too.

#### 6. Monitoring and review

We are aware of the need to review the school **Pupil Illness Policy** regularly so that we can take account of any new initiatives, changes in legislation, developments in medicine or changes to the physical environment of the school. We will review our policy in 2023

