

# ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC INFANT SCHOOL

## Child Illness Policy

### I am special in God's eyes

We will be a happy, welcoming school with Christ at the centre, where everyone is recognised as special  
"Do not be afraid for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by your name,  
you are mine.  
Because you are precious in my eyes,  
because you are honoured and I love you."  
Isaiah 43 : 2-5

St Joseph's Catholic Infant School encourages good attendance and will investigate all absenteeism. We will work closely with parents should attendance give cause for concern.

The school actively encourages good attendance even for children who are not yet statutory school age.

The following guidelines regarding **Child Illness** have been produced in conjunction with child health guidance.

Any child suffering from a doubtful rash, raised temperature, sore throat, or discharge from the eyes or nose should be kept at home until they feel well enough to return to school.

If you are unsure we suggest contacting your doctor when the surgery is open or the NHS 111 service (24 hours per day) for further advice.

On the rare occasion that a child needs prescribed medication during the school day, permission to administer medicine must be sought from the school using the written parental consent form. Alternatively, parents may come into school to administer non-prescription pain relieving medication such as Calpol to their child (see 'Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions' policy).

If, in the opinion of the Headteacher, a child is too sick to attend school, the school reserves the right to refuse to accept that child. The school also reserves the right to remove a child to hospital in the event of an emergency. Should a child become unwell at school, every effort will be made to contact the parents to collect their child as soon as possible.

If your child is too ill to attend school, you should contact the school **by 9.15 am at the latest** on the first day of absence and on alternate days thereafter. This is for the safety of your child. Messages can be left on the school absence line which is available 24 hours per day, or sent by ParentMail message or email.

**TO MINIMISE THE RISK OF TRANSMISSION OF INFECTION TO OTHER CHILDREN AND STAFF, THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES ARE RECOMMENDED BY UK HEALTH PROTECTION TEAM**

<b>DISEASE/ILLNESS</b>	<b>MINIMAL EXCLUSION PERIOD</b>
Chicken Pox	5 days from the appearance of the spots and until the vesicles are crusted over.
Conjunctivitis	None. A child should stay away from school if the eye is discharging/uncomfortable to commence treatment.
Diarrhoea & Vomiting	48 hours from the last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting if the cause is known to be viral.
German Measles (Rubella) or Measles	5 days from the onset of the rash (German Measles). 4 days from the onset of the rash (Measles).
Hand, foot and mouth	None unless the child feels unwell.
Headlice	No period of exclusion.  Commence treatment and inform the school.
Impetigo	Until the lesions (spots or blisters) have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after commencing antibiotic treatment.
Mumps	5 days from the onset of swollen glands and child feels well
Scarlet Fever	Child can return 24 hours after commencing appropriate antibiotic treatment unless the child feels unwell.
Slapped cheek, Parvovirus B19	None once rash has developed. Unless the child feels unwell.
Threadworm	None. Child may return to school once treatment is started. Treatment is recommended for both the child and family members.
Verrucae	None. Verrucae should be covered for PE lessons and in changing areas.
Whooping Cough	48 hours from commencing antibiotic treatment, or 21 days from onset of illness if no antibiotic treatment.

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

## **REFERENCES**

Guidance on Infection Control in Schools and other Childcare Settings. UK Health Protection Team ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)).

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