

SICK CHILD POLICY

Introduction

1. The health and well-being of all the children in our care is of paramount importance. Whilst we understand the needs of working parents/carers and do not aim to exclude any child from school unnecessarily, we owe a clear duty to sick children as well as other members of the school community to act swiftly in their best interests.
2. The purpose of this policy is to set out what should be done when a child becomes unwell at home and at school.
3. This policy should be read alongside the Medical Conditions and Communicable Diseases Policy which sets out the minimum period of exclusion from school in respect of those suffering from certain communicable diseases and members of their family; the Administration of Prescribed Medication Policy; and the Allergy and Anaphylaxis Management Policy.

Procedure

4. In the event that a child becomes unwell at home, his or her parents should:
 - (a) allow their child to recover fully at home;
 - (b) notify the school immediately of their child's absence and its likely duration;
 - (c) notify the school of their child's symptoms and any diagnosis made by a medical practitioner (which should be sought in all cases of communicable diseases);
 - (d) not allow their child to return to school until at least 48 hours have elapsed since the last bout of any vomiting or diarrhoea;
 - (e) observe the minimum period of exclusion in respect of their child (or any other member of their family) as set out in the school's Medical Conditions and Communicable Diseases Policy.
5. In the event that a child appears to be unwell at school, the following will occur:
 - (a) the child's condition will be assessed by their Form Teacher (or other member of staff who has direct responsibility for their welfare at the material time) and the Deputy Head (Pastoral) (or in his absence another suitably qualified First Aider);
 - (b) The Headmistress will be informed;
 - (c) where appropriate, prescribed medication will be administered (see the Administration of Prescribed Medication Policy) by staff duly authorised to do so;
 - (d) where appropriate, and only in extreme cases of raised temperature, Calpol will be administered to the child by duly authorised staff, provided that his or her parents have previously consented to such treatment;
 - (e) where, for reasons concerning the child's welfare and that of other members of the school community, it is deemed necessary for the child to be taken home, his or her parents will be contacted;

- (f) staff will make every effort to ensure that the child is made comfortable and, where it is believed necessary, kept away from other children to prevent the spread of infection. He or she will be accompanied by an adult at all times;
- (g) the child's parents will be provided with all relevant information regarding his or her symptoms;
- (h) where the child's condition appears to be serious, an ambulance will be called and the child's parents informed;
- (i) after the child has been collected from school, the steps outlined in paragraph 4 above should be followed.

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