



Advice for parents on sickness absence

Section 7 of the 1996 Education Act states that you have a duty to ensure your child's regular attendance at school.

As we all know children are sometimes too ill to attend school. All schools monitor attendance and engage with parents as soon as a pattern of absence is identified.

If your child is complaining of feeling unwell, ask yourself these questions:-

Is your child well enough to go out and play or use the many electronic devices available today?

Is your child well enough to carry out their daily school activities?

Does your child have a condition that can be passed onto other children?

Would you take a day off work if you had the same condition?

Guidance

A number of illnesses can be classified as minor health conditions for which students can still attend school i.e. headaches, colds, coughs, sore throats, period pain etc. these can be medicated at home prior to school enabling the student to still attend school as normal.

Sickness and diarrhoea – not all cases of sickness and diarrhoea are due to a contagious bug. Stress, food poisoning, tiredness, medication etc. can all be a cause. In these cases your child can attend school as soon as they are well enough. If your child is ill and you believe it to be a bug we advise you allow a period of up to 48 hours free of symptoms before returning to school but for all other cases as soon as the symptoms pass they can return to school.

If you are unsure if your child needs to stay at home with a diagnosed condition, please ring the school for advice before keeping them off.

To minimise the risk of spreading any 'bugs' around the school please continue to encourage your children to follow good hand hygiene procedures i.e. hand washing etc.

If your child does feel unwell during the school day, they will be assessed to see if they need to be sent home. If this is the case a call home will be made for you to collect them. Please ensure all contact details are up to date for this purpose.

If your child has an ongoing medical condition that we are not already aware of please ensure you contact the school so we can offer the correct support.

Finally, continue to advise the school via the absence line, on a daily basis, of your child's condition until their return.

There is a strong connection between attendance and achievement at school. Of pupils who miss more than 50% of school only 3% manage to achieve five or more GCSEs at grades 9 - 4 including Maths and English. 73% of pupils who have over 95% attendance achieve five or more GCSEs at grades 9 - 4.