



Policy Name	MANAGING SICKNESS IN SCHOOL
Relevant To	Federation ☒ Bidwell Brook Only ☐ Ellen Tinkham Only ☐
Type of Policy	Model ☐ School ☒
Name of Policy Holder	Nikki Burroughs / Nursing Teams
Subject/Department	Health & Safety
Approved By	Full Governing Body ☐ CBT Governors ☐ T&L Governors ☐ SLT ☒
Version Date (if applicable)	n/a
Date of Last Review	Summer Term 2026
Date of Next Review	Summer Term 2029

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Introduction

We recognise our responsibility to promote a learning environment that is safe and healthy for all. In order to maintain a clean and healthy environment this policy provides guidance for staff and parents as to when students should or should not be in school if showing signs of sickness. The health and well-being of all students is of paramount importance to enable them to be successful learners in everything they do.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

- To ensure that sick children are appropriately and correctly identified.
- To ensure sick children are cared for appropriately.
- To protect children and adults from preventable infection.
- To enable staff and parents to be clear about the requirements and procedures when children are unwell.

Our Approach to Managing Illness

WHILST THE FEDERATION HAS NURSING PROVISION TO ASSESS AND SUPPORT STUDENTS WITH ONGOING MEDICAL NEEDS, IT IS NOT EQUIPPED TO CARE FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE ACUTELY UNWELL AND UNABLE TO ACCESS EDUCATION.

IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PARENT / CARER TO COLLECT THEIR STUDENT PROMPTLY, IF THEY ARE UNWELL DURING THE SCHOOL DAY.

Parent/Carer Responsibilities

Parents/carers play an important role in supporting the health, wellbeing and safety of all students within the Federation. To help us maintain a healthy learning environment, parents/carers are expected to:

- Ensure that the school has up-to-date emergency contact details and that a parent/carers or nominated emergency contact can be reached during the school day.
- Keep their child at home when they are too unwell to attend school or are displaying symptoms that may require exclusion in line with this policy.
- Inform the school as soon as possible if their child has an infectious illness, contagious condition, or has been advised to remain at home by a healthcare professional.
- Arrange prompt collection of their child if requested by the school due to illness or concerns about their wellbeing.
- Provide the school with relevant medical information, including changes to health conditions, medication, treatment plans, or advice from healthcare professionals that may affect their child's attendance or care in school.

When Students should not attend school

Students should not be brought to school if they are displaying signs of illness. If a student attends school but is assessed as being unwell and unable to access learning, parents/carers will be contacted and asked to collect them. The student should not return until they are symptom-free and well enough to attend school.

What happens if a student becomes unwell in School

If a student is thought to be unwell while at school they will be seen by the school nurse, nursing assistant or in their absence by a member of SLT, as the condition of the child needs to be assessed. This will be done in a kind and caring manner. The child may be distressed, so it is important to be calm and reassuring. The Head of School will be informed of any sick students.

Decisions about collection from school

The decision regarding whether a student remains in school or is collected by a parent/carer rests with the Head of School (or delegated senior leader), following consultation with the nursing team where appropriate. Decisions will be based on available medical advice, the student's presentation, their ability to access learning safely, their individual medical needs, and the welfare of the wider school community.

Contacting Parents and Emergency Contacts

Where a parent/carer or emergency contact cannot be reached, the school will continue reasonable attempts to make contact and will ensure the student remains appropriately supervised and supported. The nursing team and relevant school leaders will monitor the student's condition and seek emergency medical assistance where necessary. All actions taken will be recorded. Any safeguarding concerns, including repeated failure to collect an unwell student or concerns regarding a student's welfare, will be managed in accordance with the school's safeguarding and child protection procedures

Infectious Disease and Exclusion Periods.

The school follows current UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) guidance regarding infectious diseases and exclusion periods. Where there is any discrepancy between this policy and current UKHSA guidance, the UKHSA guidance will take precedence

Common Reasons Students May Need to Stay at Home or Be Collected

- Following a hospital admission for surgery or illness, please check with the therapy / Medical team for advice, as some operations will need longer recovery periods than others.
- If a student has a temperature of 38°C or above and is not well enough to participate in school activities, parents/carers will be contacted to discuss collection. Students can return to school

once they are feeling better, their temperature has settled without medication, and they are able to engage in learning and daily routines.

- A student who is needing regular paracetamol throughout the day should be kept at home until well.
- Students with coughs and colds can usually attend school. However, if symptoms are severe, they appear unwell, or they are unable to participate in learning and daily routines, parents/carers may be asked to keep them at home or collect them from school.
- Students who have diarrhoea and vomiting. Parents must keep their child home for 48 hours after the last episode of vomiting or diarrhoea and can only return to school providing they are well enough. Students will not be able to swim for the 2 weeks following this episode. We understand that some children/young people may take medication for constipation. Please ensure that staff are made aware if this is the case. If your child/young person requires medication as part of a disimpaction plan, this should be carried out at home.
- During the first 48 hours of antibiotic treatment. A form will be sent home for parents to sign before antibiotics can be given in school and will only be given if stated 4 times a day.
- If a student has an infection which can spread easily – refer to following: [Health protection in children and young people settings, including education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-children-and-young-people-settings-including-education) Students with infectious or contagious diseases will not be permitted to attend for certain periods.(see appendix) If staff suspect that a student has an infectious or contagious disease they will request that parents/carers consult a doctor before returning their child to school and the school may seek advice from the Health Protection Agency
- Post op anaesthetic or sedation e.g. dental extraction, day case; your child needs to stay at home for 24 hours.
- If a student's asthma is flaring up and they are not responding to their inhalers.
- Following a seizure when rescue medicine has been given or it is known that a prolonged recovery period will be needed – If students are going to be unable to access education following a seizure and recovery they will need to be collected.

Students with Medical Conditions, Disabilities and EHCPs

The school will make reasonable adjustments for students with disabilities and long-term medical conditions in accordance with the Equality Act 2010. Decisions regarding attendance when unwell will take account of the individual's needs, Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) where applicable, agreed healthcare plans, and advice from relevant healthcare professionals

We understand the needs of working parents and do not aim to exclude students from school unnecessarily. In the event of a student having a condition where some of the above might be considered 'routine' or a side effect of their condition an agreement will be put in place in consultation with medical professionals to allow a student to remain in school when they would otherwise be collected.

Medication in School

Any medicines given in school, including paracetamol and ibuprofen will be given in accordance with the schools supporting students with medical conditions policy.

Related Policies

- Supporting Students with Medical Conditions Policy
- Managing Sickness Absence Policy
- Allergy Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Intimate Care Policy
- Health and Safety Policy

Appendix 1: Recommended Exclusion Periods for Common Illnesses and Infections

The Federation follows current UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) guidance. The table below provides a summary of common illnesses and recommended exclusion periods.

Illness/Condition	Can My Child Attend School?	Return to School
Fever (38°C or above)	No, if your child is unwell and unable to participate in activities	When temperature has settled without medication and they are well enough to attend
Vomiting and/or diarrhoea	No	48 hours after the last episode
Chickenpox	No	When all spots have crusted over and the child is well enough to attend
Impetigo	No	When lesions are healed, crusted, or 48 hours after starting appropriate treatment
Scarlet Fever	No	24 hours after starting appropriate antibiotics and when well enough to attend
Conjunctivitis	Usually yes	No exclusion normally required unless the child is unwell
Cold and common cough	Usually yes	Attendance is encouraged if the child is otherwise well
Influenza (Flu)	No if unwell	When fever-free and well enough to participate in normal activities
COVID-19	Usually yes if well enough to attend	Follow current public health guidance and school advice
Head Lice	Yes	No exclusion required. Treatment should begin as soon as possible
Threadworms	Yes	No exclusion required once treatment has started
Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease	Usually yes	As soon as the child feels well enough to attend
Measles	No	4 days after the onset of the rash and when well enough
Mumps	No	5 days after swelling develops

Ringworm	Yes	Once treatment has commenced
Scabies	No	After the first treatment has been completed

Important Information

- Individual exclusion periods may vary depending on medical advice and the needs of the student.
- The school may seek advice from healthcare professionals or public health authorities where necessary.
- For students with complex medical needs, EHCPs, or agreed healthcare plans, alternative arrangements may be agreed with parents/carers and relevant professionals.
- Where there is any discrepancy between this appendix and current UKHSA guidance, **the UKHSA guidance will take precedence.**