

Your Contact Details

Please make sure that the telephone contact details the school has are up to date. It is important that the school is able to make contact with you during the day if your child is not well enough to stay in school.

The following table provides guidance on some common childhood illnesses:

Is my child well enough to attend school?

Your child should only be kept away from school if they have an infectious illness, need care during school hours that cannot be carried out in school or are not able to cope with lessons. Many children experience common ailments from time to time. Most of these do not need a prescription, are rarely serious, do not require a visit to your doctor and do not require time away from school. Often treating your child's illness yourself, or with advice and medicines from your pharmacist, can be the quickest and easiest way to deal with it.

Schools may not agree to authorise your child's absence for minor illnesses and you have a duty to ensure your child is not absent where this can be avoided.

Raised Temperature (fever)

If your child is shivery or feels hot, they may have a raised temperature. This may be due to a variety of reasons. If your child has a raised temperature (over 37.5°C), they should not be in school. It is important to measure the temperature accurately with an appropriate thermometer. However, your child should be able to return to school once they feel and look better.

Colds and Coughs

A child may attend school with a slight cold and cough.

If your child has asthma, remember they may need their blue inhaler more often. They should have a spare which they can use when they are at school.

Occasionally, coughs can be persistent and last for weeks.

Children with bad or long-lasting coughs need to see their GP. Once treated or when the cough is controlled or disappearing and the child is feeling better, they need to return to school.

Illness	Recommendations
Chicken Pox	Children can return to school 5 days from onset of the rash.
Conjunctivitis	No need to be off school.
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	Children can return to school 48 hours from last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting. They can usually go swimming on return to school. If not, your doctor will tell you.
Flu (Influenza)	Children should return to school as soon as they have recovered.
German Measles (Rubella)	Keep off school for 6 days from onset of rash.
Glandular Fever	No need to be off school.
Head Lice (Nits)	No need to be off school.
Impetigo	Keep off school until lesions are crusted or healed or 48 hours after starting antibiotic treatment, whichever is shorter.
Measles	Keep off school for 4 days from onset of rash.
Molluscumcontagiosum	No need to be off school.
Mumps	Keep off school for 5 days from onset of swollen glands.
Ringworm	It is not usually necessary to keep off school.
Scabies	Child can return after first treatment.
Threadworms	Children should attend school.
Warts and Verrucae	Children should attend school.
Whooping cough	Five days from starting antibiotic treatment, or 21 days from onset of illness if no antibiotic treatment has been given.

*All information taken from Guidance on Infection Control in Schools and Other Child Care Settings (HPA 2010)