



Learning together, growing together

Dorin Park School and Specialist SEN College

Guidance on School Attendance for Ill Children

Dear Parents and Carers,

We understand that deciding when to send your child to school when they are feeling unwell can be a difficult decision. We want to work in partnership with you to ensure the health and wellbeing of all our students and staff. Therefore, we are writing to clarify our guidelines regarding school attendance when children are ill.

Keeping children at home when they are contagious is crucial to prevent the spread of illness within the school community. Conversely, keeping children at home unnecessarily can disrupt their learning and development. We hope this letter provides clear guidance to help you make informed decisions.

Please keep your child at home if they are experiencing any of the following:

- **Fever:** A temperature of 37.8°C or higher. Your child should be fever-free for 24 hours *without* the use of fever-reducing medication before returning to school.
- **Vomiting or Diarrhoea:** If your child has vomited more than once or has experienced multiple episodes of diarrhoea within a 24-hour period. They should be symptom-free for 48 hours before returning.
- **Rash with fever or other symptoms:** Rashes can be indicative of various contagious illnesses. Please consult with your doctor for diagnosis and guidance before sending your child back to school.
- **Persistent cough or difficulty breathing:** If your child has a persistent cough that interferes with their ability to participate in school activities, or if they are experiencing difficulty breathing, please keep them home and consult with your doctor.
- **Known or suspected contagious illness:** This includes, but is not limited to, strep throat, chickenpox, flu, and COVID-19. Please follow your doctor's instructions regarding isolation and return to school.
- **Generally unwell and unable to participate:** If your child is feeling generally unwell, lethargic, or not themselves, and you believe they are not well enough to participate in school activities, it's best to keep them home.

Your child may attend school if they have:

- **Mild cold symptoms:** A runny nose, mild cough, or sore throat *without* a fever, and they are otherwise feeling well.
- **Minor aches and pains:** Occasional headaches or muscle aches that do not interfere with their ability to participate in school activities.

Important Considerations:

- **Communication is key:** Please inform the school office of your child's absence and the reason for their absence as soon as possible. This helps us track illnesses and ensure accurate attendance records.
- **Post-Medical Procedure:** If your child has undergone a medical procedure, please contact Maxine Nevitt (Family Liaison Officer) to schedule an admission meeting *before* your child returns to school. This meeting will allow us to discuss any specific needs or accommodations your child may require following their procedure.

We appreciate your cooperation in helping us maintain a healthy learning environment for all our students. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Sincerely,

Sarah Adam
Headteacher

Headteacher – Sarah Adam

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