



DURANTS SCHOOL – POLICY DOCUMENT

Durants School Pupil Illness Policy

2020

*Reviewed & updated: December 2020 (Rachel Carli & Frances Sutherland)
Next review date: December 2021*

1. Introduction

This policy outlines procedures to be followed in the event of a pupil illness. As illnesses are diverse in nature it will not be able to cover all eventualities.

Making sure your child attends school is your legal responsibility as a parent/guardian. It is also crucial for your child's education and future. Full attendance lets your child make the most of their education. Children who miss days at school risk missing out on teaching and learning opportunities. By law, only the school can authorise your child's absence. It's important to keep the school informed if your child is going to be absent.

2. Absence Reporting Procedure

There is a clear process for you to follow to inform the school that your child will not be attending:

1. Parent/guardian phones the school office **before 8.30** to inform school that their child is absent and of the cause of the absence. The school will ask about the nature of the illness and the expected duration of the absence.
2. If the school receives no phone call, school phones home to ascertain the child's whereabouts and reason for absence. If school can't contact the parent at home, school will contact other emergency contacts until whereabouts of the child and their well-being can be confirmed.
3. If school can't contact anyone who can confirm the child is safe and well, the school will follow up the absence using information known about the pupil and their specific circumstances.

3. Decisions regarding attendance or absence

Use common sense when deciding whether or not your child is too ill to attend school. Ask yourself:

1. Is your child well enough to carry out the activities of the school day? If not, keep your child at home.
2. Does your child have a condition that could be passed on to other children or school staff? If so, keep your child at home.
3. Would you take a day off work if you had this condition? If so, keep your child at home.

Common Conditions

Most illnesses can be classified as one of a few minor health conditions. Whether or not you send your child to school will depend on how severe you judge the illness to be. This

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guidance can help you to make that judgement. If you're concerned about your child's health, please consult a health professional.

4. **Cough & cold** – a child with a minor cough or cold may attend school. If the cold is accompanied by shivers or drowsiness, the child should stay off school, and return to school **24 hours after** they are feeling better. If your child has a more severe and long- lasting cough, consult your GP, who can provide guidance on whether the child should stay off school.
5. **Raised temperature**– if your child has a raised temperature or is feeling ill with signs of an acute illness, they should not attend school. They can return when they are feeling better.
6. **Rash** – rashes can be the first sign of many infectious illnesses such as chickenpox and measles. Children with these conditions should not attend school. If your child has a rash, check with your GP or Practice Nurse before sending them to school.
7. **Headaches** – a child with a minor headache does not usually need to be kept off school. If the headache is more severe or is accompanied by other symptoms such as raised temperature or drowsiness, then keep the child off school and consult your GP.
8. **Vomiting and diarrhoea** – children with these conditions should be kept off school. They can return **48 hours after their symptoms have settled**. Most cases get better without treatment, but if symptoms persist consult your GP.
9. **Sore throat**– a child with a sore throat alone does not have to be kept from school. If your child is feeling ill with it, the child should stay at home.

To minimise the risk of transmission of infection to other children, and staff, the following guidelines are suggested.

DISEASE/ILLNESS	MINIMAL EXCLUSION PERIOD
Chickenpox and shingles	5 days after onset of the rash. Immuno-compromised children / adults – should take separate advice from their GP
Conjunctivitis (pink eye)	A child should stay away if eye is discharging until treated for 24 hours and/or eye(s) appear normal again
Diarrhoea & Vomiting	Until there has been no diarrhoea or vomiting for 48 hours
German Measles (Rubella) or Measles	5 days from onset of rash and until child feels well
Headlice	No period of exclusion but helpful to let school know
Impetigo	Once the spots have crusted or healed or 48 hours of antibiotics and the child feels well
Mumps	7 days from onset of swollen glands and child feels well
Scabies	Child can return to school the day after treated

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DISEASE/ILLNESS	MINIMAL EXCLUSION PERIOD
Scarlet Fever	When child feels well, and 48 hours after start of antibiotics
Threadworm	Child may return the day after treatment
Verruca	Child does not need to stay away from school and can go swimming if verruca is covered with a waterproof plaster
Whooping Cough	5 days from commencing antibiotics or 21 days without treatment

If in any doubt, professional medical advice should be sought.

Other References: www.hpa.org.uk

4. Pupils who become Unwell at School

If a child becomes ill at school, every effort will be made to contact their parents/ guardians and failing that, their emergency contacts. It is therefore important to keep the school informed of any changes to home/mobile nos. or any change of home arrangements.

A member of school staff will stay with the child until they are collected by parents/guardians or a known adult nominated by the parent/guardian.

In the event of a pupil having an accident during school hours, the first aiders will assess the severity of the accident and make the decision to apply first aid if appropriate. Any significant injury or accident will be reported to the parent/carer immediately. If appropriate, and the severity demands, the school will call an ambulance.

5. Administration of Medication Policy

For children who require medication during the school day, our separate Administration of Medication policy requires that parents, bringing medication to the school office, must do so, in the original container, it should be clearly labelled, and within its expiry date. It is the responsibility of the parent to ensure that medications held, are within their expiry date. A care plan will need to be in place and signed by both the school and parents in order for medication to be administered in school.

Medications must be stored in the locked first aid cabinets in classrooms or the fridge in the school office. There is a supply of basic first aid equipment held in the school. Full details are contained in the Administration of Medication Policy.

We hope that this Policy offers you some help in assessing whether or not to send your child to school in the event that they may not be well. In issuing these guidelines, we wish to reassure you that your child's health is important to us too.

6. Monitoring and review

We are aware of the need to review the school **Pupil Illness Policy** regularly so that we can take account of any new initiatives, changes in legislation, developments in medicine or changes to the physical environment of the school. We will review our policy in 2021/22.

Addendum to policy

Covid19

Pupil develops symptoms or lives with someone who does

- The pupil's parent/carer must notify the school on the first day that their child needs to self-isolate. The pupil will stay at home until they or the symptomatic person they live with receives their coronavirus test results. If the pupil's test result is negative: the pupil will return to school when they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus. They should continue to stay at home if they remain unwell (i.e. with a different illness).
- If the person the pupil lives with tests negative: the pupil will stop self-isolating and return to school

Pupil or a 'close contact' of theirs receives a positive test result

The pupil's parent/carer must notify the school about the positive test result as soon as possible. Pupils who test positive must self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of symptoms, and must only return to school when they no longer have symptoms (other than a cough or a loss of sense of smell or taste). If a member of the pupil's household or a 'close contact' tests positive, the pupil must self-isolate for 14 days. The pupil must do this from when the member of their household first had symptoms, or the day the pupil last met with the 'close contact' who received the positive result. (This is regardless of whether you chose to get a test & it comes back negative)

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they should remain at home for at least **10 days** from the date when their symptoms appeared.

All other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days.

The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home.

Household members staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community

If you are able can, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period

Symptoms of COVID 19

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia).

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

If your child or anyone in the household does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/> or by phoning 111.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

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There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19

Do

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Further Information

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>