

PUPIL SICKNESS AND ABSENCE POLICY



At Slinfold CE Primary and Pre-school we take the responsibility of looking after your children extremely seriously. The way in which we communicate with parents and carers is with integrity, trust and the best interest of your child at heart. In this policy we have outlined 2 parts.

Part 1 relates to guidance for parents to follow if they are concerned that their child is unwell.

Part 2 relates to guidance that the school will follow if your child feels unwell when at school.

Part 1

When a child is unwell, it can sometimes be difficult, as a parent, to decide whether to keep them off school. These simple [guidelines](#) taken from the NHS website should help.

Not every illness will require a child to stay away from school. During term time, your child should attend school regularly unless he or she is ill or the school has authorised their absence. If your child is too ill to come to school, you must let the school know before 8:50am on each day of absence. Please contact the school either by:

- calling the office number: 01403 790253, selecting option 1 and leaving a message
- or e-mailing the school, office@slinfold.w-sussex.sch.uk

Please ensure that you state the nature of your child's illness (e.g. headache, vomiting, etc.) If you state that that they are under the weather or unwell, we will call you to clarify.

If you do not contact the school on each day of illness then a member of the staff team will be in touch to ensure all is well.

All absence is recorded and monitored by the attendance team and a strict procedure is followed.

Should my child stay at home?

Common sense needs to be used when deciding whether or not a child is too ill to attend school. Parents need to ask themselves the following questions.

- Is my child well enough to do the activities of the school day? If not, keep your child at home.
- Would I take a day off work if I had this condition? If so, keep your child at home.

Common conditions

If a child is ill, it's likely to be due to one of a few minor health conditions.

Cough and cold

A child with a minor cough or cold may attend school. If the cold is accompanied by a raised temperature, shivers or drowsiness, the child should stay off school, visit the GP and return to school 24 hours after they start to feel better. If a child has a more severe and long-lasting cough, they should go to a GP. They can give guidance on whether your child should stay off school.

Raised temperature

If a child has a raised temperature, they shouldn't attend school. They can return 24 hours after they start to feel better.

Rash

Skin rashes can be the first sign of many infectious illnesses, such as chickenpox and measles. Children with these conditions shouldn't attend school. If a child has a rash, check with a GP or practice nurse before sending them to school.

Headache

A child with a minor headache doesn't 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 the child should be kept off school and your GP consulted.

Vomiting and diarrhoea

Children with diarrhoea and/or vomiting must be kept off school until at least 48 hours after their symptoms have gone. Most cases of diarrhoea and vomiting in children get better without treatment, but if symptoms persist, consult your GP or phone 111.

Sore throat

A sore throat alone doesn't have to keep a child from school. If, however, it's accompanied by a raised temperature, your child should stay at home.

Chickenpox

If a child has chickenpox, they must be kept off school until all their spots have crusted over.

Public Health England

Click [here](#) to go to Public Health England's latest advice.

Part 2

In the unfortunate event that your child falls ill at school, we will follow these procedures:

- Apply common sense to all situations working in the best interest of the child
- If your child is physically sick at school then you will be asked to collect them from school as soon as possible. Your child will then need to **be kept off school until at least 48 hours after their symptoms have gone.**
- If your child suffers from diarrhoea at school then you will be asked to collect them from school as soon as possible. Your child will then need to **be kept off school until at least 48 hours after their symptoms have gone.**
- If your child suffers from a headache we will contact you in order to discuss next steps and how you would like us to support your child
- If your child is complaining of feeling unwell we will contact you in order to discuss next steps and how you would like us to support your child
- If your child suffers any injury we will follow our first aid procedures and policies

°C	°F	
37	98.6	Ave. body temp.
37.5	99.5	Low fever
38	100.4	High temperature
38.5	101.3	Some fever
39	102.2	Some fever
39.5	103.1	High fever
40	104	High fever