



Edisford Primary School

Confidence. Persistence. Getting Along. Organisation. Resilience.

Absence and Infectious Diseases Policy

Please find below guidance regarding infectious diseases and attendance at school.

Infection or Complaint	Recommended Period of Exclusion	Comments
Antibiotics	First 24 hours, if the child is feeling well enough. Consider how you as a parent can administer antibiotics as teachers cannot do this without a health care plan for an underlying condition.	After the first 24 hours, the child may attend school. Staff members cannot administer medicine in line with their working terms and conditions.
Chicken Pox	Until all vesicles (spots) have crusted over.	Please inform school if your child is infected with one of these rashes, as there are potential risks to female staff (during pregnancy) and to vulnerable children.
German Measles	5 days from onset of rash.	
Measles	4 days from onset of rash.	
Slapped cheek/Parvovirus	None (once rash has developed).	
Hand, Foot and Mouth	While the child is unwell.	
COVID-19	Until recovered.	Please inform school due to risks for vulnerable children.
Mumps	5 days after onset of swelling.	
Impetigo	Until lesions are crusted and healed or 48 hours after starting antibiotics.	
Flu	Until recovered.	Please inform school due to risks for vulnerable children.
Tonsillitis	Until recovered.	Please inform school.

Whooping Cough (Pertussis)	Stay off school until 48 hours after starting antibiotics, or 3 weeks after symptoms started if you have not had antibiotics.	
Scabies	Child can return after first treatment.	All members of the household and those in close contact should receive treatment.
Conjunctivitis	None.	
Diarrhoea or vomiting	48 hours from last episode for children. 24 hours from last episode for adults.	This is 24 hours after last bout plus 24 hours recovery time. Shorter time reflects that adults wash hands frequently and practise good hygiene.
Gastro-enteritis Food Poisoning Salmonella Dysentery	48 hours or until certified well by a doctor.	
Scarlet Fever	Child can return 24 hours after starting antibiotic treatment.	Please inform school if your child is infected with Scarlet Fever, as there are potential risks to female staff (during pregnancy) and to vulnerable children.
Infection or Complaint	Recommended Period of Exclusion	Comments
Diphtheria	Exclusion is essential. Consult with local Health Protection Team (HPT).	Notifiable disease
Glandular fever	Until recovered.	Please inform school.
Meningitis	Until recovered.	Be vigilant for a rash that does not fade when a glass is rolled over it or high sensitivity to bright lights or stiff neck.
Head lice	None.	Please wet comb thoroughly for first treatment and then

		every three days for next two weeks to remove all lice. Please inform school.
Cold sores	Only if unwell.	Encourage hand washing to reduce viral spread. Avoid contact until crusted over.
Ringworm	Until treatment has commenced.	Persist with treatment for at least two weeks after rash disappears.
Threadworms	None.	Encourage hand washing, including nail scrubbing.
Viral infections	Until the child is well and temperature is normal (37 degrees).	

Please inform school of any health condition or illness when you ring to report your child's absence.

Legal Obligations

Teachers' conditions of service do not include any legal or contractual obligation to administer medicine or to supervise a pupil taking medicine.

Staff will not, therefore, administer/store any medicine other than those described in our Medicine Policy (as part of an agreed Long Term Health Care Plan). This includes antibiotics and non-prescription medicines such as Calpol/paracetamol and aspirin.

Updated July 2026.

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