

## PUPIL ILLNESS POLICY

### Introduction

It is the policy of the Board of Management of School of the Holy Spirit to provide a caring, healthy and safe environment for each pupil and staff member in the school. As part of this commitment we will seek to ensure that pupils' health issues are managed positively and proactively. This policy was drafted to outline procedures to be followed in the event of pupil illness or injury.

### Decisions regarding attendance or absence

When making a decision on whether or not a child is too ill to attend school parents should ask themselves the following questions:

Is your child well enough to carry out the activities of the school day?

Does your child have a condition that could be passed on to other vulnerable children or school staff?

Would you take a day off work if you had this condition?

**If the answer to any of these questions is yes you should keep your child at home.**

### Common conditions

To minimize the risk of transmission and spread of infection to other children and staff, the following HSE guidelines are followed, "Management of Infectious Disease in Schools" September 2013. These guidelines are available to view as pdf on

[www.education.ie/en/Schools-Colleges/Information/National-Emergencies-Public-Health-Issues/Management-of-Infectious-Disease-in-Schools](http://www.education.ie/en/Schools-Colleges/Information/National-Emergencies-Public-Health-Issues/Management-of-Infectious-Disease-in-Schools) pdf.

| Condition                   | Recommended period to be kept away from school                               | Comments                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Athletes Foot               | None                                                                         | Athletes Foot is not a serious condition.<br>Treatment is recommended.                     |
| Chicken Pox                 | seven days from the onset of rash and longer if spots have not crusted over. | SEE: Vulnerable children and staff - Pregnancy                                             |
| Cold Sores (Herpes simplex) | None                                                                         | Avoid kissing and contact with the sores. Cold sores are generally mild and self limiting. |
| German Measles (Rubella)    | Six days from onset of rash                                                  | Preventable by immunization (MMR 2)                                                        |

|                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                   | doses). SEE: Female staff - Pregnancy.                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Hand, Foot and Mouth     | Children should be excluded while unwell with hand, foot and mouth.                                                                                                                               | Contact your local Public Health Department if a large number of children are affected.                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Impetigo                 | Until lesions are crusted and healed, or 48 hours after commencing antibiotic treatment.                                                                                                          | Antibiotic treatment speeds healing and reduces the infectious period.                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Scabies                  | Child can return after first treatment.                                                                                                                                                           | Household and close contacts require treatment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Shingles                 | Exclude only if rash is weeping and cannot be covered.                                                                                                                                            | Can cause chickenpox in those who are not immune i.e. have not had chickenpox. It is spread by very close contact and touch. If further information is required, contact your local Public Health Department. SEE: Vulnerable Children and Female Staff - Pregnancy. |
| Warts and Verrucae       | None                                                                                                                                                                                              | Verrucae should be covered in swimming pools, gymnasiums and changing rooms.                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Diarrhea and/or vomiting | 48 hours from last episode of diarrhea or vomiting.                                                                                                                                               | Discontinue sand, water, playdough, and cooking activity during an outbreak.                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Flu (Influenza)          | Initially for at least 5 days from when symptoms begin and child should no re-attend until fully recovered                                                                                        | SEE: Vulnerable children and adults.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Conjunctivitis           | In circumstances where spread within the class or school is evident it may be necessary to recommend exclusion of affected pupils until they recover, or until they have antibiotics for 48hours. | If an outbreak/cluster occurs, consult your local Public Health Department.                                                                                                                                                                                          |

|                                      |                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Head Lice                            | Child can return after first treatment.                                                                        | Treatment is recommended only in cases where live lice have been seen.                                                                                                                              |
| Meningococcal Meningitis/ Septicemia | Children with Meningitis will be too ill to attend the school. The child should re-attend when fully recovered | Meningitis C is preventable by vaccination. There is no reason to exclude siblings or other close contacts of a case. Your local Public Health Department will advise on any action needed.         |
| Meningitis viral                     | None                                                                                                           | Milder illness. There is no reason to exclude siblings or other close contacts of a case. Contact tracing is not required.                                                                          |
| MRSA                                 | None                                                                                                           | Good hygiene, in particular handwashing and environmental cleaning are important to minimize any danger of spread. If further information is required, contact your local Public Health Department. |

Due to the increased vulnerability of many of our pupils at School of the Holy Spirit and the high level of close contact between staff and pupils, we request that any pupil who is prescribed a course of antibiotics is excluded from school for a minimum of 3 days in order to minimize the risk of transmission of infection.

After an infectious illness the school requires a medical note that states the child is well enough to return to school e.g. chicken pox, impetigo. Any queries please contact the School.

#### **Pupil who becomes unwell at school**

If a pupil becomes ill at school, parents/guardians will be informed immediately. A detailed description of the symptoms will be given. The SNA must stay with the child at all times. If it is deemed necessary for the child to go home, it is the responsibility of the parents/guardians to make arrangements to bring the pupil home. If a parent/guardian appoints someone to collect the pupil that person must be identified for the school. Parents/guardians must sign the pupil out of the school.

If it is deemed appropriate to administer medication which will alleviate the symptoms the pupil will be monitored and a decision will be made on whether the pupil should go home or

not depending on the effectiveness of the medication. Parents/guardians will always be informed that their child has been unwell and given the option of bringing them home. A written record will be kept of any medications administered.

Parents are requested to keep the school informed of any allergy, ailment or medical condition suffered by their child and any appropriate action to be taken by school staff as outlined to the parents by a Doctor.

### **Emergency care**

In the case of an emergency it may be necessary for the school to ring for an ambulance and to accompany the pupil to hospital as soon as possible. If this should happen the parents/guardians will be informed as soon as possible and asked to attend the hospital immediately. The school is not liable for any expenses incurred.

Parents must sign a consent form for emergency medical treatment at the beginning of each school year.

### **Contact details**

It is the responsibility of the parents/guardians to ensure that the most up to date contact details are with the school.

### **Medications**

For children who require medication during the school day the school authorization form must be filled in and signed by the parents/guardians. Without this form no medications can be administered, including non-prescription drugs such as Calpol and Nurofen. Copies of these forms are available on request from the school. Medicine authorisation forms must be updated at the beginning of each school year and whenever there are any changes in dosage or time of administration. Parents/guardians must give written consent to administer medications.

It is the responsibility of the parents/guardians to ensure that the school has adequate supplies of all medications to be administered. All medications must be in the original container, clearly labeled and within its expiry date.

A written record will be kept of all medications administered.

This Policy was ratified by the Board of Management on \_\_\_\_\_

Date of next review: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Chairman Board of Management**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Principal**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_