



Health Policy

The following document outlines when a child **may not attend school**. When a child displays the following symptoms it is preferable to seek a doctor's advice. Children who display any of these symptoms during the school day will be sent home immediately.

Temperature

- When a child has a temperature above 37.8 degrees
- Only after a child has been **fever free for 24 hours without fever medication having been administered** may a child return to school

Coughs

- When a child has an on-going cough and/or a 'deep' cough
- When a child has a cough with sputum
- When a child has a dry 'hacking' cough
- Please seek a doctor's advice urgently if your child has been coughing for more than three days, has difficulty breathing or is breathing consistently faster than normal

Runny Noses

- If a child has a **clear** runny nose but does not require any medication and has no cough or other symptoms, they may attend school.
- If symptoms worsen please keep your child at home.

Pink Eye / Conjunctivitis

- No child may attend school with red and/or swollen eyes with discharge.
- A child may return to school 48 hours after all symptoms have stopped (no discharge, no swelling and no redness)

Diarrhoea and / or vomiting

- No child who has diarrhoea or is vomiting may attend school
- If a child has been sent home with diarrhoea or vomiting, they may not return to school until 24 hours after all diarrhoea and vomiting has stopped

Antibiotic Treatment

- When a child has been prescribed antibiotics and/or other medication to treat an infection, the child may return to school not earlier than 2 days after the start of the antibiotic treatment
- Please ensure that you follow the doctor's prescription to the end. Do not stop antibiotic treatment before its scheduled end

Unspecified Rash

- If your child develops an unspecified rash on the main body (incl. chest, head, neck, mouth) please seek a doctor's advice
- No child will be permitted to attend school until you have doctor's confirmation that your child is not suffering from any contagious disease

Contagious disease

- No child may attend school with any contagious disease such as *German Measles* or *Mumps*

Chickenpox

- A child who has had the chickenpox vaccine can still contract chickenpox, although symptoms are usually far milder
- No child may attend school until ALL scabbing has fallen off

Ringworm

- Ringworm transfers easily from pets to children
- Please consult a pharmacist for a proprietary cream if you suspect ringworm
- A child may attend school after treatment has begun, providing the entire area is covered in a dressing
- No ringworm cream may be administered to a child by staff at Hedgerows

Head Lice

- No child may attend school with live lice or nits (lice eggs) in their hair
- After treatment all nits must be removed before a child can attend school

Unfortunately pre-school children are particularly prone to common colds and respiratory tract, gastro-intestinal and other infections. Ironically they need these infections to build up their immunity. Although incredibly frustrating to parents, these infections can easily occur in some children up to 10 - 12 times per year. Just like ourselves, sometimes more so, children need rest to fight an infection.

If your child is sick, please do not send them to school! This is for the benefit of your child as well as the good of all the children around them.

At Hedgerows, we present children with a full day of learning activities, for which your child needs energy and to be well enough to undertake these activities. We cannot offer a sick child the individual care and attention that a parent or caretaker would at home. If your child rests when sick they are likely to get better much quicker than if they are exposed to a busy day at pre-school and are possibly exposed to other infectious agents. Therefore, we ask you to please take these rules very seriously!

Please note that NO MEDICATION may be given to a child on verbal instruction, other than emergency medication. A form is available in the office and must be completed by a parent when the medication is given to the staff. We require written permission from the parent to administer any medication that is brought into school.

Please do not leave any medication in your child's bag

DR. D Mueller (med) and the Hedgerows Team

March 2021