



“Put your heart and soul into everything that you do.”
Purpose. Passion. Success.

Sickness and Infectious Diseases Policy

1. Rationale

At Pattishall CE Primary School, we are committed to safeguarding the health, safety and wellbeing of all pupils, staff and visitors. As a Church of England school, this reflects our vision of enabling all to flourish, rooted in our values of **Passion, Purpose and Success**.

This policy outlines procedures for managing illness and infectious diseases in line with guidance from the UK Health Security Agency and relevant government legislation.

2. Aims

This policy aims to:

- Prevent the spread of infection within the school community
- Provide clear guidance to parents and carers on when children should remain at home
- Ensure compliance with national public health guidance
- Support pupil wellbeing while minimising unnecessary absence
- Ensure appropriate response to infectious disease outbreaks

3. Legal and Guidance Framework

This policy is informed by:

- Education Act 1996 (duty to ensure attendance)
- Guidance from the UK Health Security Agency
- Government guidance: *Health protection in children and young people's settings*

Schools are expected to follow national exclusion guidance to reduce transmission of infectious diseases.

4. General Principles

- Children **should not attend school if they are unwell** or have symptoms of an infectious illness
- Children should return **as soon as they are well enough**, in line with recommended exclusion periods
- Good hygiene practices (handwashing, respiratory hygiene, cleaning and ventilation) are actively promoted
- Parents must inform the school promptly of any infectious illness

Children with mild symptoms (e.g. common cold without fever) may attend school if they are well enough.

5. Exclusion Periods for Common Childhood Illnesses

The school follows the latest national guidance from the UK Health Security Agency.

Illness	Exclusion Period
Chickenpox	At least 5 days from onset of rash and until spots have crusted
Diarrhoea and/or vomiting	48 hours after last episode
Cold / flu (including COVID-19)	Until no high temperature and well enough
Impetigo	Until lesions have healed or 48 hours after antibiotics
Measles	4 days after rash appears

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Mumps	5 days after swelling begins
Scarlet fever / Strep A infection (including strep throat)	24 hours after starting antibiotics
Whooping cough	48 hours after antibiotics start (or longer if untreated)
Hand, foot and mouth	No exclusion if child is well
Conjunctivitis	No exclusion required
Head lice	No exclusion once treated
Scabies	Return after first treatment

Important:

Where no exclusion period is stated, children may attend if they are well enough.

6. When Children Should Stay at Home

Children should remain at home if they:

- Have a fever/high temperature
- Are experiencing vomiting or diarrhoea
- Have a contagious rash that has not been assessed
- Are too unwell to participate in normal school activities

7. Managing Infectious Disease in School

The school will:

- Promote effective hygiene routines (handwashing, catch-it-bin-it-kill-it)
- Ensure regular cleaning of surfaces and shared resources
- Maintain good ventilation in learning spaces
- Contact the local Health Protection Team if required

In the event of an outbreak, the school will follow national guidance and may implement additional control measures.

8. Administration of Medicines in School

Pattishall CE Primary School operates in line with statutory guidance *Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school* and our separate **Medicines in School Policy**.

Key Principles

- Medicines will only be administered with written parental consent
- All medication must be clearly labelled with the child's name, dosage and instructions
- A record will be kept of all medicines administered

Types of Medication Administered

The school may administer:

- Liquid paracetamol (pain relief and fever reduction)
- Antihistamines (for allergy-related conditions)
- Prescribed medications issued by a healthcare professional

Medication will only be given when:

- Written parental permission has been provided

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- Clear dosage instructions are supplied
- The medication is in its original packaging

Emergency medications (e.g. inhalers, auto-injectors) are stored safely and accessible where required.

9. Communication with Parents and Carers

Parents and carers are expected to:

- Inform the school on the first day of absence
- Provide details of the illness where possible
- Follow exclusion guidance before returning their child
- Complete medication forms where required

The school will:

- Inform parents of confirmed cases of infectious diseases where appropriate
- Provide advice and public health guidance when necessary
- Maintain confidentiality at all times

10. Supporting Pupils

We recognise that absence due to illness can impact learning and wellbeing. The school will:

- Support reintegration after illness
- Provide catch-up opportunities where appropriate
- Be mindful of pupils with medical conditions or vulnerabilities

11. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or in line with updated national guidance from the UK Health Security Agency.

12. Conclusion

By following clear, consistent guidance, Pattishall CE Primary School aims to protect the health of the whole community while ensuring that children attend school whenever they are well enough to do so. This supports both wellbeing and educational success, reflecting our commitment to **Passion, Purpose and Success**.