# Brockham Arts Club – Sick Child & Exclusion Policy

Effective from: July 2025
Next review: July 2026

## 1. Statement of Intent

Brockham Arts Club is committed to promoting the health and wellbeing of all children and staff. To maintain a safe and hygienic environment, we ask that children who are unwell do not attend sessions, and that parents follow recommended exclusion periods for contagious illnesses.

This policy sets out when a child should stay at home, and the procedures we follow if a child becomes unwell while in our care.

## 2. When to Keep Your Child at Home

Please keep your child at home if they show any of the following symptoms:
- Diarrhoea and/or vomiting – must stay home for 48 hours after the last episode
- High temperature (over 38°C) or fever
- Continuous coughing
- Unexplained rashes
- Eye infections (e.g. conjunctivitis)
- Sore throat or difficulty swallowing
- Cold or flu-like symptoms if the child is too unwell to participate
- Any signs of infectious illness (see section 5)

## 3. If a Child Becomes Ill During a Session

If a child becomes unwell while attending Brockham Arts Club:
- They will be comforted and supervised in a quiet, safe area.
- Parents/carers will be contacted and asked to collect the child promptly.
- If the child shows symptoms of an infectious illness, they may be isolated from the main group until collection.

## 4. Returning After Illness

Children should only return to the club when they are well enough to participate in activities and are no longer contagious.
In some cases, we may ask for confirmation that they are fit to return (e.g. after hospitalisation or serious illness).

Diarrhoea and Vomiting:
- Children must stay home for at least 48 hours after the last episode.

Fever:
- Children must be fever-free for at least 24 hours without medication before returning.

## 5. Examples of Common Infectious Illnesses Requiring Exclusion

Below are some examples of infectious illnesses that require children to stay at home for a set period:

Illness | Exclusion Period
----------------------------|-----------------------------------
Chickenpox | Until all spots have scabbed over (usually 5–7 days)
Hand, Foot and Mouth | While child is unwell; no exclusion after symptoms clear
Conjunctivitis | Until discharge has stopped or after 24 hours of treatment
Impetigo | Until lesions are crusted/healed or 48 hours after antibiotics
Scarlett Fever | 24 hours after starting antibiotics
Covid-19 | Follow current government guidance
Norovirus | 48 hours after last symptoms
Ringworm | Until treatment has started
Whooping Cough | 48 hours after starting antibiotics or 21 days from onset

## 6. Contagious Illness Notification

If your child is diagnosed with a contagious illness:
- Please notify us as soon as possible.
- We will inform other parents (without naming the child) if there is a risk of spread.
- We will carry out extra cleaning and hygiene measures if needed.

## 7. Medication and Recovery

We do not administer non-essential medication (e.g. paracetamol) to mask symptoms and send a child back prematurely. Children who need regular medication to manage an ongoing condition (e.g. asthma, allergies) must have a care plan in place with us.

## 8. Safeguarding and Duty of Care

We reserve the right to refuse admission or request early collection if a child appears too unwell to participate, or if their condition may pose a risk to others.

This policy helps us:
- Reduce the spread of infection
- Protect vulnerable children and staff
- Maintain a healthy environment where all children can thrive

## Contact

If you have any questions about this policy or your child’s symptoms, please contact us at:

📧 [Your Email]
📞 [Your Phone Number]