



# Discovery Schools Trust



Medical Advice  
for Parents



We have put together this information booklet to help you if your child becomes ill with any of the following infections or illnesses; and what to do if your child needs to take medicines in school or suddenly develops an allergy.

We appreciate that sometimes, it can be hard to make a decision about whether to send a child to school, particularly when school attendance is so important!

With the majority of illnesses, such as colds and sore throats, there are no recommended guidelines for how long a child should be at home for and as a parent, you will need to use your own judgement as to whether your child needs to rest at home or is well enough to attend school.

However, for some illnesses or infections, it is recommended that to protect the other children and staff, a set amount of time to be away from school is advised. The Health Protection Agency (HPA) has produced guidance for schools and we have adopted this practice. The leaflet sets out advised time periods to be absent from school if a child has one of the illnesses listed.

There are many other conditions which your child may have and we have not listed every single childhood medical condition as either, they are extremely rare, or, there are no set guidelines for how much time a child may need to be off school for.

It is important that you inform school whatever the condition, as in some cases we would need to protect particularly vulnerable children or pregnant members of staff.

We hope that this is of use to you when making a decision and of course, if you are at all unsure, please do telephone the school office where we will be able to help you to make a decision.

## Guidance on rashes and skin infections

Condition	Recommended time period to be kept away from school
Chickenpox	5 days from the onset of the rash
German Measles	6 days from the onset of the rash
Impetigo	48 hours after starting antibiotic treatment or until the lesions are completely crusted and healed
Measles	4 days from the onset of the rash
Ringworm	Treatment required but exclusion from school not normally necessary
Scabies	Child can return after the first treatment
Scarlet Fever	Child can return 24 hours after commencing antibiotic treatment
Shingles	Only to be away from school if rash is weeping and cannot be covered
Warts and verrucae	To be covered for swimming lessons but child can come to school

## Guidance on diarrhoea and vomiting illness

Condition	Recommended time period to be kept away from school
Diarrhoea and vomiting illness	24 hours from the last case of vomiting or diarrhoea

## Guidance on respiratory infections

Condition	Recommended time period to be kept away from school
Flu (influenza) NOT GENERAL COUGHS AND COLDS	Until recovered
Whooping cough	5 days from starting antibiotic treatment or

## Guidance on other infections

Condition	Recommended time period to be kept away from school
Mumps	5 days after onset of swelling
Threadworms	Treatment required but child can come to school

## Administration of Medicines in School



If your child needs medication during school time, please inform the school office. We can only administer medication prescribed by a doctor, for the named child concerned. This means that we cannot administer over the counter medication such as Calpol or Paracetamol. If you would like to see our full school policy regarding this matter, please call in to the school office.

If your child is attending a school residential, the same policy applies and staff are only allowed to take and administer medication which has been prescribed by a doctor.

### What happens if my child is ill during the school day?



If your child feels unwell during the school day, we will do what we can to help them feel better and try to keep them at school if we feel they are well enough. If we really don't feel that they are well after assessing their needs, we will phone you to collect them.

## Asthma



If your child is asthmatic, we will ask you to complete a 'school asthma card' with the help of your child's asthma nurse. This is kept in school so that staff know how to manage your child's asthma. You will be asked to update this card annually. You will also be asked to provide an inhaler to store in the school office and an inhaler to be stored in the child's classroom. If your child has more serious asthma, then we will ask you to complete a 'care plan' which will help us in the case of an emergency.

## Allergies



If your child has a serious allergy (e.g nuts), which may require the use of an epi-pen, we will ask you to complete a 'care plan' which will help us in the case of an emergency and to provide two epi-pens: one for the school office and one for the classroom.

For allergies which don't require epi-pens, we ask that you keep us informed of the allergies and any changes to the allergies.

## Other Medical Conditions



If at any time, you find that your child has developed a medical condition, please make an appointment to come and discuss it at school. We follow set procedures to ensure that children with allergies, asthma, epilepsy and other conditions are well cared for in school.

This may mean asking you to complete a 'care plan' so that we can follow the correct procedures for your child in the case of an emergency.