



EVERY DAY MATTERS

Working together for excellent attendance

ILLNESS, MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS & EVIDENCE

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Should I send my child to school if they are feeling unwell?

In most cases, yes. Children should attend school whenever they are well enough to do so. Minor illnesses such as coughs, colds, headaches or feeling tired do not usually prevent a child from attending school.

2. When should my child stay at home?

Children should stay at home if they are too unwell to take part in normal school activities, or if they have an illness that could spread to others. If you are unsure, please contact the school for advice.

3. What if my child has sickness or diarrhoea?

Children should remain at home until they have been free from sickness and diarrhoea for at least 48 hours.

4. My child has a cough or cold. Should they still attend school?

In most cases, yes. Coughs, colds and mild seasonal illnesses are common, and children can usually continue to attend school, unless they are feeling particularly unwell.

5. Will the school contact me if my child becomes unwell during the day?

Yes. If your child becomes too unwell to remain in school, we will contact you using the emergency contact information we hold.

6. Do I need to provide evidence when my child is absent due to illness?

Parents are responsible for informing school of the reason for absence. In some circumstances, particularly where there are concerns about attendance patterns or repeated absences, the school may request medical evidence.

7. What counts as medical evidence?

Examples may include:

- Appointment letters
- Hospital or clinic correspondence
- Prescription labels
- Screenshots of NHS or medical appointments
- Evidence from a healthcare professional

The school will always consider evidence sensitively and proportionately.

8. Do I need a doctor's note every time my child is ill?

No. Schools do not expect parents to obtain a doctor's note for every illness. However, where absences become frequent, or there are concerns regarding attendance, further evidence may be requested.

9. Should medical appointments be arranged during school time?

Where possible, appointments should be arranged outside of school hours. We recognise this is not always possible and ask that children attend school before and after appointments, whenever practical.

10. What if my child has a long-term medical condition?

Please inform the school if your child has a diagnosed medical condition. We will work with families and healthcare professionals, where appropriate, to ensure children receive the support they need while maintaining the best possible attendance.

11. Can attendance still be a concern if absences are due to illness?

Yes. Even where absences are genuine, missing significant amounts of school can affect learning, friendships and wellbeing. We may contact families to discuss support if attendance begins to cause concern.

12. How can the school support families?

We understand that managing illness, appointments and medical conditions can be challenging. Our aim is to work in partnership with families, offering support, guidance and understanding, while helping children access as much education as possible.

13. What is the school's approach to illness-related absence?

We want children in school whenever they are well enough to attend. We recognise that illness is sometimes unavoidable, and we will always work with families to balance children's health needs with the importance of regular attendance.