

The Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School



Kingsland Gardens, Kingsthorpe, Northampton, Northamptonshire, NN2 7BH



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Information leaflet for parents

Occasionally pupils are too unwell to attend school. Schools will monitor and engage with parents as soon as a pattern of absence becomes apparent. When deciding whether or not your child is too ill to attend school. Ask yourself:

- Is your child well enough to carry out the activities of the school day? If not, keep your child at home and consult your GP as appropriate.
- Does your child have a condition that could be passed on to other children or school staff? If so, keep your child at home.
- Would you take a day off work if you had this condition? If so, keep your child at home.

Common conditions

Most illnesses can be classified as one of a few minor health conditions. Whether or not you send your child to school will depend on how severe you judge the illness to be. This guidance can help you to make that judgement. If you're concerned about your child's health, consult a health professional.

Cough and cold

A child with a minor cough or cold may attend school. If the cold is accompanied by raised temperature, shivers or drowsiness, the child should stay off school and return to school 24 hours after they're feeling better. If your child has a more severe and long-lasting cough, consult your GP, who can provide guidance on whether the child should stay off school.

Raised temperature

If your child has a raised temperature, they shouldn't attend school. They can return 24 hours after they're feeling better. A normal temperature in babies and children is about 36.4C, but this can vary slightly from child to child. A fever is a high temperature of 38C or more. Fever is the body's natural response to fighting infections.

Rash

Rashes can be the first sign of many infectious illnesses such as chickenpox and measles. Children with these conditions shouldn't attend school. If your child has a rash, check with your GP or practice nurse before sending them to school.



Website

www.olicatschools.org

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Headache

A child with a minor headache doesn't usually need to be kept off school. If the headache is more severe or is accompanied by other symptoms such as raised temperature or drowsiness, then keep the child off school and consult your GP.

Vomiting and diarrhoea

Children with these conditions should be kept off school. They can return 48 hours after their symptoms disappear. Most cases of vomiting or diarrhoea get better without treatment, but if symptoms persist, consult your GP.

Sore throat

A sore throat alone doesn't have to keep a child from school. If it's accompanied by a raised temperature, the child should stay at home.

Medicines

The Good Shepherd's medicine policy now enables us to administer medication in school. If your child will need medication during the school day. **Please do not send your child to school with medicine to give to the class teacher.** You should attend the school office and sign the appropriate permission forms.

Reporting your child's absence

You will need to inform the Main Reception before 9:30am on every day your child is absent from school due to illness. By law, only the head teacher can authorise your child's absence. It is important to keep the school informed if your child is going to be absent as soon as possible at the start of the day. We will enquire about the nature of the illness and the expected duration of the absence from school. Any messages left, should give the following information. Child's name, nature of the illness and when you think they will return. Ill, unwell and poorly will not be accepted as suitable reasons for absence.

If we do not hear from you and your child is absent. This **will** result in a text message and then first response telephone call as part of our safeguarding policy. No response to this telephone call will trigger a home visit by the family Support Officer.

If your child is frequently absent due to illness. The school may request permission to contact your GP for confirmation that they are too ill to attend school. If it becomes clear that your child will be away from school for longer than expected, phone the school to explain this as soon as possible.

If your child attends school and feels unwell during the school day, the school will contact you to arrange collecting your child from school.

Medical Health appointments

Health professionals are well aware of the importance of good school attendance. Therefore every effort should be made to make routine medical appointments during the school holidays. Time off to treat a long term condition/disability will need to be arranged with the school in advance.

Long term conditions and disability

If your child has a medical condition. You or a healthcare professional should tell the school if your child has medical needs. If your child can't attend because of illness or injury, your school and local council will provide support to make sure their education doesn't suffer.