

You can prevent the spread of infections by ensuring routine immunisations, high standards of personal hygiene, particularly hand washing and maintaining a clean environment.

Always try to inform the school before 9.30am every day your child is absent from school due to illness.

By law, only the Headteacher can authorise your child's absence. It is important to keep the school informed if your child is going to be absent that day.

Each school will have its own process for the recording and monitoring of sickness absence. If your child is frequently missing school due to illness, medical confirmation may be requested from your GP and/or a referral may be made to the Attendance and Wellbeing Service or Education Welfare Service.

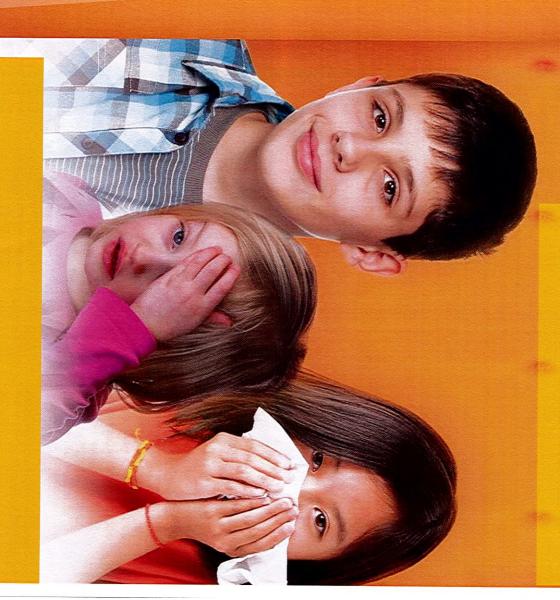
If your child attends school and feels unwell during the school day the school will contact you to arrange for them to be collected.

Make use of the 'Choose VVell' chart on the NHS Direct website to give you advice about how to manage your child's symptoms.

For further help or advice in your area please contact:

## A parents guide to

## ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL



## Illness

As we all know children are sometimes too ill to attend school. All schools monitor attendance and engage with parents as soon as a pattern of absence is identified.

This leaflet has been designed to help you decide whether or not your child is too unwell to attend school.

## Ask yourself these questions:

Is your child well enough to go out to play?
Is your child well enough to carry out their daily school activities?
If you answered No then it is advised you seek advice from NHS Direct or consult your GP if necessary.

Does your child have a condition that can be passed on to other children?

Would you take a day off work if you had the same condition? If you answered Yes it is advised you seek advice from NHS Direct or consult your GP if necessary.

A number of illnesses can be classified as a minor health condition and whether you send your child to school will depend on how ill you deem your child to be.

There is a range of common conditions that occur in school age children and they all have varying incubation periods based on the guidelines of the Health Protection Agency (HPA). There may be children and staff who are at greater risk to infectious disease who need to be protected where possible.

Any health-related enquiries should be directed to health professionals on the national helpline 0845 46 47 or your family GP/health visitor.

The following table provides guidance for parents on the recommended time off school:

Mumps	Whooping coug	Flu	Diarrhoea and/ k or Vomiting	Shingles	Scarlet Fever	Ringworm Scabies	Measles	German Measles (Rubella)	Impetigo	Chickenpox	Slapped cheek None	Tonsillus	Threadworm	Hesto Hee	Glandular fever None	Conjunctivitis	Hand Foot and None Mouth	Illness
5 days after onset of swelling	Whooping cough 5 days from commencing antibiotic treatment or 21 days from onset of illness if no antibiotic treatment	Until recovered	Diarrhoea and/ Keep home for 48 hours from or Vomiting the last episode of vomiting/diarrhoea	Keep home only if rash is weeping and cannot be covered	Child can return to school 24 hours after commencing antibiotic treatment	Not usually required Child to return after first treatment	4 days from onset of rash	German Measles 6 days from onset of rash (Rubella)	Until lesions are crusted and healed or 48 hours after commencing antibiotic treatment	5 days from onset of rash	lone	None	None	None	None	None		Recommended time off school
Preventable by vaccination (MMR ⋈)	Preventable by vaccination. After treatment, non infectious coughing may continue for many weeks	Avoid contact with vulnerable children and babies	Many causes, if persistent see GP as further time off school may be required	Keep home only if rash is  Can cause chickenpox in people weeping and cannot be covered who are not immune. Keep away from vulnerable children and pregnant females	Seek advice from GP as antibiotic treatment is recommended	People with close contact require treatment	Preventable by immunisation (MMR ×2)	(MMR x2)	Antibiotics reduce the infectious period	Keep away from vulnerable children and pregnant females	Keep away from vulnerable children and pregnant females	are due to viruses	Treatment is recommended for the child and all household contacts	Treatment is required		If an outbreak occurs contact your Local Health Board	Please contact your local health board if a large number of children are affected. Children may be required to refrain from school in some circumstances	Comments