



## **Policy:**

### Sickness and Absence Policy

Approved by the governing body on.....

**Play together, learn together, achieve together.**

# SPRINGVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Sickness and Absence Policy Spring 2021



### **Introduction**

This policy was created after a period of consultation with relevant stakeholders within school. It has been formally adopted by governors and reflects our approach at Springvale Primary School. This policy is based on guidance issued by Public Health England.

### **Aims and Principles**

The policy is underpinned by the central aims of Springvale Primary and values held by the school community:

#### **Aims of the school**

- Springvale is committed to promoting high standards of academic achievement for all learners in all subjects.
- As a school we will continue to develop and instil key life skills and values in our pupils.
- We will encourage positive relationships and communications between home, our community and the wider world.

In particular, Springvale School has an inclusive approach to our provision. Our aim is always to involve all our children and stakeholders in all areas of the curriculum and school life. In accordance with our **Disability Equality Scheme** we recognise that this may mean making special adaptations or arrangements from time to time for children with specific disabilities. We welcome the involvement of disabled adults in all areas of school life.

### **Background Information**

Springvale Primary School is a caring and open school, where parents, children, staff and the wider school community all know that their views and needs will be listened to, in both education and personal areas.

If a child is exhibiting symptoms of illness or some medical condition, it is the responsibility of the parent/carer to take appropriate action and to make a decision on whether that child should attend school. In cases where a child does not attend, the school must be informed of the reasons for any absence.

This policy gives some guidance on appropriate action on a range of illnesses and medical conditions published by Public Health England and also sets out the procedure for reporting any absences to school.

The illnesses and conditions are set out below:

#### Diarrhoea and vomiting illness

| Infection or complaint                                                                    | Recommended period to be kept away from school, nursery or childminders                                                                                    | Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Diarrhoea and/or vomiting                                                                 | 24 hours from last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <i>E. coli</i> O157 VTEC Typhoid* [and paratyphoid*] (enteric fever) (dysentery) Shigella | Should be excluded for 48 hours from the last episode of diarrhoea. Further exclusion may be required for some children until they are no longer excreting | Further exclusion is required for children aged five years or younger and those who have difficulty in adhering to hygiene practices. Children in these categories should be excluded until there is evidence of microbiological clearance. This guidance may also apply to some contacts who may also require microbiological clearance. Please consult your local PHE centre for further advice |
| Cryptosporidiosis                                                                         | Exclude for 48 hours from the last episode of diarrhoea                                                                                                    | Exclusion from swimming is advisable for two weeks after the diarrhoea has settled                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

#### Respiratory infections

| Infection or complaint     | Recommended period to be kept away from school, nursery or childminders                                   | Comments                                                                                                                                                            |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Flu (influenza)            | Until recovered                                                                                           | <i>See: Vulnerable Children</i>                                                                                                                                     |
| Tuberculosis               | Always consult your local PHE centre                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Whooping cough (pertussis) | Five days from starting antibiotic treatment, or 21 days from onset of illness if no antibiotic treatment | Preventable by vaccination. After treatment, non-infectious coughing may continue for many weeks. Your local PHE centre will organise any contact tracing necessary |

### Rashes and skin infections

Children with rashes should be considered infectious and assessed by their doctor.

| Infection or complaint                      | Recommended period to be kept away from school, nursery or childminders               | Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Athlete's foot                              | None                                                                                  | Athlete's foot is not a serious condition. Treatment is recommended                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Chickenpox                                  | Until all vesicles have crusted over                                                  | <i>See: Vulnerable Children and Female Staff – Pregnancy</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Cold sores, (Herpes simplex)                | None                                                                                  | Avoid kissing and contact with the sores. Cold sores are generally mild and self-limiting                                                                                                                                                                   |
| German measles (rubella)                    | Four days from onset of rash (as per "Green Book")                                    | Preventable by immunisation (MMR x2 doses). <i>See: Female Staff – Pregnancy</i>                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Hand, foot and mouth                        | None                                                                                  | Contact your local HPT if a large number of children are affected. Exclusion may be considered in some circumstances                                                                                                                                        |
| Impetigo                                    | Until lesions are crusted and healed, or 48 hours after starting antibiotic treatment | Antibiotic treatment speeds healing and reduces the infectious period                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Measles                                     | Four days from onset of rash                                                          | Preventable by vaccination (MMR x2). <i>See: Vulnerable Children and Female Staff – Pregnancy</i>                                                                                                                                                           |
| Molluscum contagiosum                       | None                                                                                  | A self-limiting condition                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Ringworm                                    | Exclusion not usually required                                                        | Treatment is required                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Roseola (infantum)                          | None                                                                                  | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Scabies                                     | Child can return after first treatment                                                | Household and close contacts require treatment                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Scarlet fever                               | Child can return 24 hours after starting appropriate antibiotic treatment             | Antibiotic treatment is recommended for the affected child                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Slapped cheek/fifth disease. Parvovirus B19 | None (once rash has developed)                                                        | <i>See: Vulnerable Children and Female Staff – Pregnancy</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Shingles                                    | Exclude only if rash is weeping and cannot be covered                                 | Can cause chickenpox in those who are not immune, ie have not had chickenpox. It is spread by very close contact and touch. If further information is required, contact your local PHE centre. <i>See: Vulnerable Children and Female Staff – Pregnancy</i> |
| Warts and verrucae                          | None                                                                                  | Verrucae should be covered in swimming pools, gymnasiums and changing rooms                                                                                                                                                                                 |

## Other infections

| Infection or complaint                | Recommended period to be kept away from school, nursery or child minders                            | Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Conjunctivitis                        | None                                                                                                | If an outbreak/cluster occurs, consult your local PHE centre                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Diphtheria                            | Exclusion is essential. Always consult with your local HPT                                          | Family contacts must be excluded until cleared to return by your local PHE centre. Preventable by vaccination. Your local PHE centre will organise any contact tracing necessary                                                                                                                                         |
| Glandular fever                       | None                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Head lice                             | None                                                                                                | Treatment is recommended only in cases where live lice have been seen                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Hepatitis A                           | Exclude until seven days after onset of jaundice (or seven days after symptom onset if no jaundice) | In an outbreak of hepatitis A, your local PHE centre will advise on control measures                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Hepatitis B, C, HIV/AIDS              | None                                                                                                | Hepatitis B and C and HIV are blood borne viruses that are not infectious through casual contact. For cleaning of body fluid spills see: Good Hygiene Practice                                                                                                                                                           |
| Meningococcal meningitis/ septicaemia | Until recovered                                                                                     | Meningitis C is preventable by vaccination<br>There is no reason to exclude siblings or other close contacts of a case. In case of an outbreak, it may be necessary to provide antibiotics with or without meningococcal vaccination to close school contacts. Your local PHE centre will advise on any action is needed |
| Meningitis due to other bacteria      | Until recovered                                                                                     | Hib and pneumococcal meningitis are preventable by vaccination. There is no reason to exclude siblings or other close contacts of a case. Your local PHE centre will give advice on any action needed                                                                                                                    |
| Meningitis viral                      | None                                                                                                | Milder illness. There is no reason to exclude siblings and other close contacts of a case. Contact tracing is not required                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| MRSA                                  | None                                                                                                | Good hygiene, in particular handwashing and environmental cleaning, are important to minimise any danger of spread. If further information is required, contact your local PHE centre                                                                                                                                    |

|             |                                                     |                                                                                        |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mumps       | Exclude child for five days after onset of swelling | Preventable by vaccination (MMR x2 doses)                                              |
| Threadworms | None                                                | Treatment is recommended for the child and household contacts                          |
| Tonsillitis | None                                                | There are many causes, but most cases are due to viruses and do not need an antibiotic |

### **Reporting Sickness and Absence**

All sickness and absence must be reported on the first day of absence. Please ensure that the school is updated on a daily basis until your child returns to school.

Please call the absence line on 01226 760939 or the main school office on 01226 760930 to report your child absent. Please ensure that you provide your child's name, class and symptoms for their absence.

### **Vulnerable children (i.e in this instance, children vulnerable to certain medical conditions)**

Some medical conditions make children vulnerable to infections that would rarely be serious in most children, these include those being treated for leukaemia or other cancers, on high doses of steroids and with conditions that seriously reduce immunity. This may mean that your child is particularly vulnerable to chickenpox, measles or parvovirus B19.

Please could parents/carers notify the school immediately if these circumstances arise to enable us to implement special procedures to protect your child and others in school. The school will promptly inform parents/carers with vulnerable children where there may be a possibility of exposure to infection if, for example, a classmate contracted measles or chickenpox. The school would advise that further medical advice be sought in these circumstances. It may be advisable for vulnerable children to have additional immunisations, for example pneumococcal and influenza.

### **Female staff – pregnancy**

It is important to appreciate that there are a number of illnesses which may present significant risk to pregnant staff and may affect their developing baby. The illnesses are:

- chickenpox**
- German measles (rubella).**
- slapped cheek disease (parvovirus B19)**
- measles**
- scarlet fever**

**Please inform the school immediately if your child is suffering from any of these illnesses to enable us to protect our staff.**

**Please note that since February 2020 the school has clear guidelines on managing symptoms, or potential symptoms, of COVID-19. This advice is continually updated and relayed to parents in newsletters. Thank you.**