Child Sickness Procedure

Kington St. Michael CE Primary School fully recognises its responsibilities for Child Illness

Policy agreed (date):	**29th September 2026**
Policy published (including on website) **(date):**	**29th September 2026**
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When should a child stay at home?

We understand that it can sometimes be difficult for parents and carers to decide whether a child is well enough to attend school.

Not every illness requires a child to stay away from school. However, children should not attend school if they are too unwell to participate fully in the normal activities of the school day or if they may pose a risk of infection to other pupils or staff.

Parents and carers should consider the following questions when deciding whether their child is well enough to attend:

- Is my child well enough to take part in the full school day?
  If they are not well enough to participate in normal school activities, they should remain at home.
- Does my child have an illness or infection that could be passed to other children or members of staff?
  If so, they should remain at home in accordance with the relevant exclusion period.
- Would I be well enough to attend work if I had the same symptoms?
  If the answer is no, your child should generally remain at home.

Parents and carers should use their judgement and follow the relevant public health guidance when making decisions about attendance.

Reporting an Absence

If a child is unable to attend school because they are unwell, parents or carers must inform the school office on the first day of absence and provide the reason for the absence.

Further information about reporting an absence can be found on the school website:
School absence information

Diarrhoea and Vomiting – 48-Hour Exclusion Period

To reduce the spread of infection, **any child or member of staff who has experienced vomiting and/or diarrhoea must remain away from school until they have been free from these symptoms for at least 48 hours and are well enough to return.**

This applies regardless of the suspected cause of the vomiting or diarrhoea. It is not always possible to determine whether symptoms are caused by an infectious illness, and therefore the same exclusion period must be applied consistently in all cases.

Vomiting and diarrhoea can be caused by a range of viruses, bacteria and parasites and can spread easily from person to person, particularly where effective hand hygiene is not maintained. Applying a consistent 48-hour exclusion period helps to reduce the risk of infection among pupils, families and staff.

If a child becomes unwell at school

If a child develops vomiting and/or diarrhoea while at school, parents/carers or the child's emergency contact will be contacted and asked to collect them.

The child must not return to school until at least 48 hours after the last episode of vomiting and/or diarrhoea, provided that they are otherwise well enough to attend.

For example, if a child is sick at lunchtime on a Tuesday, they should not return to school until after lunchtime on Thursday, provided they have had no further episodes of vomiting and/or diarrhoea.

We recognise that keeping a child at home for 48 hours can sometimes be inconvenient. However, applying this rule consistently to all cases is an important infection-control measure and helps protect the health and wellbeing of our whole school community.

Further Guidance

Parents and carers can find further information about childhood illness and school attendance in the UK Health Security Agency guidance:

Should I keep my child off school? – UKHSA guidance