



**Penwortham Broad Oak
School Sickness Absence
Policy**

Penwortham Broad Oak Primary School Sickness Absence Policy

At Penwortham Broad Oak Primary School we follow the Government Public Health England Guidelines.

Public Health England exists to protect and improve the nation's health and wellbeing, and reduce health inequalities. It does this through world-class science, knowledge and intelligence, advocacy, partnerships and the delivery of specialist public health services. PHE is an operationally autonomous executive agency of the Department of Health.

School Illness Guidelines for Parents/Carers

When your child is unwell, it can be hard deciding whether to keep them off school.

Would you take a day off work if you had this condition? If so, keep your child at home.

Not every illness needs to keep your child from school. If you keep your child away from school, please call school to inform us on the first day of their absence.

Use common sense when deciding whether or not your child is too ill to attend school. **Ask yourself the following questions:**

- Is your child well enough to do the activities of the school day? If not, keep your child at home.
- Does your child have a condition that could be passed on to other children or school staff? If so, keep your child at home.

If your child is ill, it's likely to be due to one of a few minor health conditions. Whether you send your child to school will depend on how severe you think the illness is. This guidance can help you make that judgement.

Remember: if you are concerned about your child's health, consult a health professional.

Some more common illnesses can include:

Cough and cold – A child with a minor cough or cold may attend school. If the cold is accompanied by a raised temperature, shivers or drowsiness, your child should stay off school, **visit the GP and return to school 48 hours after they start to feel better**. If your child has a more severe and long-lasting cough, consult your GP. They can give 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 48 hours after they start to feel better.**

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.

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 the last bout of sickness** when their symptoms disappear. Most cases of vomiting or diarrhoea get better without treatment, but if symptoms persist, consult your GP.

Sore throat – A child who complains of a slight sore throat and has no other symptoms is fit to go to school. A sore throat with a high temperature is an indication that the child should stay at home

Conjunctivitis – Guidance from Public Health England (PHE) (the Health Protection Agency) states that it is not necessary to exclude a child from school or from childcare if they have infective conjunctivitis, unless there is an outbreak of several cases.

Tonsillitis – Guidance from Public Health England (PHE) (the Health Protection Agency) states that it is not necessary to exclude a child from school or from childcare.

Headlice – Guidance from Public Health England (PHE) (the Health Protection Agency) states that it is not necessary to exclude a child from school however treatment is recommended where live lice have been seen to prevent an outbreak in school.

Impetigo – Your child cannot attend school until lesions are crusted and healed, or 48 hours after starting antibiotic treatment. Antibiotic treatment speeds healing and reduces the infectious period.

It's important to inform the school if your child is going to be absent. On the first day of your child's illness, telephone the school office to let us know that your child will be staying at home. Please make sure that you contact us each day that your child will not be in.

It is also important that we have your emergency contact details and that they are up to date. It is essential that we are able to contact you (or your one of the contacts on your emergency list) when your child is feeling or is unwell.

USEFUL WEBSITES:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/infectious-diseases-schools-and-other-childcare-settings/how-long-should-you-keep-your-child-off-school-checklist-poster-text-version>

USEFUL POSTER:

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/626669cb8fa8f523b7221b98/UKHSA-should-I-keep-my-child-off-school-guidance-A3-poster.pdf>

Parents/Carers should always ask a GP, Pharmacist or staff member, if they are unsure.