

## Hope Nursery school - Policy for attendance of children

### Children

Children at hope Nursery School are expected to come to school each day that school is open, except when ill.

Children of nursery age often pick up illnesses which are infectious, e.g. stomach bugs, chickenpox, colds etc. When they are ill, parents are required to keep their children at home, to avoid spreading the infection or illness to other children.

### Vomiting and /or diarrhoea

When a child has had vomiting or diarrhoea, they must not return to school until at least 48 hours after the last episode. This is the guidance of the Public Health Agency and is in order to control the spread of infection for everyone's benefit. Parents are expected to co-operate with this requirement.

The Public Health Agency provides advice on when children should return to school. Some of this is outlined below e.g.

Impetigo- Until lesions are crusted and healed, or 48 hours after commencing antibiotic treatment

Chickenpox - Until all vesicles have crusted over

Flu - Until recovered

Conjunctivitis - while there is no official recommendation for absence, this is an unpleasant eye infection which spreads rapidly and children can feel miserable. It is our policy that children should be fully recovered before returning to school as they are unable to stop touching and rubbing their eyes and then inevitably touching other classroom equipment, thereby spreading the infection. As we have sand and other messy items in our classrooms, it is a sensible precaution to keep children at home until the infection clears. This is to avoid both the spread of the infection to others and to prevent further injury to the child's eye, e.g. rubbing sand in their eyes.

Other infections e.g. slapped cheek / hand foot and mouth. While there is no official recommendation for absence, these are also very infectious and can be dangerous to vulnerable people. For everyone's protection and well-being, it is our policy that children should be fully recovered before returning to school.

When a child becomes ill in school, parents or a listed contact for the child will be contacted and informed of the child's condition. In most cases they will be asked to collect the child.

If a child is absent from school, we ask parents to inform us by phone.

Where there is a concern about a child's welfare, staff may phone parents/carers to clarify the situation and, if necessary contact outside agencies/ the CPSSS for advice.

