

Green Shoots Federation

Your child is unwell, should they attend school?

When your child is unwell, it can be hard deciding whether to keep them off school. A few simple guidelines can help. Not every illness needs to keep your child from school. If you keep your child away from school, be sure to inform the school 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. Would you take a day off work if you had this condition? If so, keep your child at home.

These are some of the common conditions that your child may have. Whether you send your child to school will depend on how severe you think the illness is. This guidance can help you.

Cough and cold. A child with a minor cough or cold may attend school. If the cold is accompanied by a fever which is a temperature of 38 degrees and over, shivers or drowsiness, the child should stay off school until their temperature has come down and they are feeling better. Consult a GP if you are concerned or if your child has a severe and long lasting cough.

Raised temperature. If your child has a raised temperature of 38 degrees and over they shouldn't attend school until the temperature has dropped and they are feeling better. If you are concerned about your child's health contact a doctor.

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 their symptoms disappear. Most cases of vomiting or diarrhoea get better without treatment, but if symptoms persist, consult your GP.

Sore throat. A sore throat alone doesn't have to keep a child from school. If it's accompanied by a raised temperature, the child should stay at home.

Conjunctivitis. Children with conjunctivitis need to be kept off school until antibiotic eye ointment has been applied for 24 hours.

Impetigo. Children with impetigo need to be kept off school until there is no more blistering or crusting, or until 48 hours after antibiotic treatment has been started.

Positive for Covid. All under 18's who test positive can return to school after three days of their positive result, and if they are well enough to attend.

Tell the school. It's vital to inform the school if your child is going to be absent. Absences must be reported before 8:35am on the first day of your child's illness. Absences can be reported by telephone or email. If it becomes clear that your child will be away for longer than expected, phone the school as soon as possible to explain this.

What effect does absence from school have on a child?

Absence from school has a profound effect on a child's ability to learn, succeed, build resilience and may also inhibit their ability to interact with others resulting in feelings of social isolation.

There are 365 days in a normal year. Children have on average 189 of these days at school. Children will of course get poorly which can't be helped, but this does mean that 176 days are left away from school to spend quality time with family and take planned holiday.

Days Missed	0-5 days missed per year	6-8 days missed per year	9-11 days missed per year	12-15 days missed per year	16-18 days missed per year	19 and more school days missed per year
Attendance across year	98 - 100% attendance	96- 97% attendance	94- 95% attendance	92- 93% attendance	90- 91% attendance	< 90% attendance
Impact of attendance	Children are accessing all learning	Very little learning is missed	Risk of poorer than expected achievement	High risk of poorer than expected achievement	Severe risk of poorer than expected achievement	Extreme risk of poorer than expected achievement
% of pupils who achieve expected standard	Year 2— 67% Year 6— 71%	Year 2— 61% Year 6— 65%	Year 2— 56% Year 6— 61%	Year 2— 51% Year 6— 56%	Year 2— 48% Year 6— 50%	Year 2— < 45% Year 6— < 50%

What the school will do to monitor pupil attendance

If a reason for absence has not been given by 10am the register will be marked as unauthorised absence.

Nine unauthorised sessions (4.5 days) in a six week period will result in the issue of a Fixed Penalty Notice.

If absence drops below 96% parents will receive a notification text.

If absence falls below 92% parents will be invited to attend a meeting with the Deputy Head teacher to discuss reasons for absence, any help the school can give, or set targets for improvement.

If absence falls below 90% parents will be invited to attend a meeting with the headteacher to discuss reasons for absence. While below 90% absences without medical evidence will be annotated as unauthorised. If not improvement within three weeks the LA attendance officer will be contacted. Prosecution may follow.