

School Nursing Service

Remember that you can contact the School Nursing Service for advice, particularly if a child has on-going health need that is affecting their attendance.

The Sandwell School Nursing Service can be contacted on 0121 612 2974 or email BCHNT.SHNSANDWELL@nhs.net

Website: www.bhamcommunity.nhs.uk/patients-public/children-andyoung-people/services-parent-portal/school-health-services-schoolnursing/sandwell-school-nursing/

NHS Choices

Further advice can be found from NHS Choices:
www.nhs.uk/pages/home.aspx

Public Health England

For further more detailed information including advice on diseases and certain conditions not covered here see Public Health England's guidance:

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/522337/Guidance_on_infection_control_in_schools.pdf

Sickness Absence in Schools A Guide for Parents



Infections can be passed from person to person resulting in infection and disease. Infections can spread easily in “closed” environments such as schools are due to the number of people together in close proximity. The spread of infection can be prevented or reduced by measures such as:

- Vaccinations
- Keeping yourself clean, including regular hand washing
- Keeping areas your children go into clean.

In some situations children or staff with certain infections should not attend school to reduce the risk of spread to others.

Schools are required to provide evidence for OFSTED that they are managing children’s absences appropriately. In cases where children are absent regularly, you may be asked to bring a doctor’s note, copy of a prescription or appointment letters for the schools reference.

The below advice is based on national Public Health England guidance, and your individual school policy may differ.

Condition	Absence Advised	Length of absence from school	Comments
Headache, Ear ache, Stomach ache	No	None	Paracetamol and fluids should be adequate. Seek medical advice if persists or is unusually severe
High temperature	No	None	If a rash is present, seek medical advice from GP or NHS Direct before attending school. A high temperature can be draining and the child may not feel well enough to attend
Coughs and colds	No	None	
Sore throat and tonsillitis	No	None	
Head lice	No	None	
Warts and verrucae	No	None	Verrucae should be covered with a waterproof plaster
Conjunctivitis	No	None	Encourage the child not to touch their eye and to wash hands frequently
Flu	Yes	Until recovered	Flu is highly infectious and can be dangerous to the vulnerable. Flu vaccine is available to certain cohorts
Diarrhoea and vomiting caused by infection	Yes	Until 48 hours after the last symptom	Most cases will be caused by viruses such as norovirus. Other infections are less common, but may require longer absence
Scabies	Yes	After the first treatment	Everyone living in the same household will need to be treated at the same time
Impetigo	Yes	Until lesions have healed or 48 hours after starting antibiotics	
Measles	Yes	Must be absent for four days after the rash has appeared	Measles is highly infectious and can be dangerous to vulnerable adults and children who haven’t been vaccinated. Measles can be prevented through the MMR vaccine
Chickenpox	Yes	Until the vesicles have dried over	
German measles	Yes	Must be absent for at least 4 days after the rash has appeared	German measles (Rubella) can be prevented through the MMR vaccine
Mumps	Yes	Must be absent until 5 days after the swelling started	Mumps can be prevented through the MMR vaccine
Whooping cough	Yes	Until the child has taken 5 days of antibiotics or if not taking antibiotics, 21 days	Whooping cough can be prevented by vaccine
TB	Yes if pulmonary	Not all types of TB are infectious	Local Health Protection team will be able to advise
Scarlet fever	Yes	Until 24 hours after taking first dose of antibiotics or 2 weeks after symptoms started (if child not taking antibiotics)	
Slapped cheek	No (<i>only infectious before symptoms appear</i>)		Anyone who is pregnant or has a weakened immune system and have been near someone with slapped cheek syndrome should tell their midwife or GP.
Hand, foot and mouth	Yes	Until child feels well enough to attend school	Not to be confused with foot and mouth disease (a different disease that affects farm animals).