



Hoyle Court Primary School

Every school day counts!



**When is a child too ill
for school?**



When is a child too sick for school?

There are 3 key reasons to keep a child at home:

1. Fever over 100.4 degrees F or 38 degrees C
 2. The child may have a contagious illness or rash
 3. The child is not well enough to participate in class
- Fever is a symptom which usually indicates that the body is fighting an infection. A child with fever over 100.4 degrees F (38°C) needs to stay home until the fever is gone for 24 hours
 - Rashes that are itchy or scaly may be contagious and need to be checked by the nurse or doctor. If a child with a rash is ill looking, is having trouble swallowing or breathing, they need to be seen by the doctor
 - A cough need not keep a child from school unless it is interfering with sleep or ability to take part in activities. Coughs and runny noses can persist for up to two weeks after a cold.
Children can return to school once they no longer have a fever
 - Children can attend school with a mild sore throat unless they have other symptoms as well, such as fever, vomiting or abdominal pain
 - Children with a vomiting illness (repeated vomiting) need to stay home until the vomiting stops and they are eating normally, and have been well for 48 hours
 - Children with diarrhoea also need to stay home until stools have been normal for at least 48 hours
 - Frequent hand washing with soap and water is the most important and effective way of preventing the spread of contagious diseases

Illness	Symptoms and Signs	What to do
Fever	100.4°F or 38°C	Stay home, must be fever free for 24 hours before returning
Headache	If the child can't do normal activities	Stay home
Vomiting	More than twice in 24 hours or if diarrhoea also	Stay home until 48 hours after last vomit
Diarrhoea	More than 3 stools in 24 hours	Home until 48 hours after last bout
Sore Throat	If not eating or fever	Return as soon as well or 24 hours after starting antibiotic if prescribed
Cold Symptoms	Stuffed or runny nose, sneezing, mild cough	No need to stay home
Cough	If the cough disrupts normal activity	Return to school after the doctor has cleared child of serious illness e.g. whooping cough
Asthma	If the child can't do normal activities. If coughing a lot.	Needs to see the doctor or asthma nurse to review treatment.
Conjunctivitis (Red Eyes)	With yellow or green pus	May return 24 hours after treatment started
Chicken Pox	Some children have a fever, abdominal pain, sore throat, headache, or a vague sick feeling a day or two before the rash appears	At least 5 days from the onset of the rash, return when the blisters are all dry and crusted over
Hand, foot and mouth disease	Not infectious once rash appears	No need to stay home unless drooling
Impetigo	Patch of red, itchy skin. Blisters develop on this area, soon forming crusty, yellow-brown sores	May return 48 hours after starting antibiotic medicine/cream. Sores must be covered with dressing.
Ringworm	Ring Shaped or oval patch of scaly red skin	Return once started on treatment. Keep area covered.
Head Lice	Spread directly from head to head so short and tidy hair may help	They are a nuisance, not a reason to stay home.
Doctor or dentist visit		Back to school afterward unless the dentist or doctor says stay at home.

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