



ST.ANNE'S COPP CHURCH OF
ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL,
GREAT ECCLESTON



CHILD SICKNESS

POLICY



"Let us love, not in word, but in truth and action." (1 John 3:18)

SEPTEMBER 2026

In building solid foundations for every unique individual and putting God's love at the centre of all we do, our children learn to embrace our diverse world. We encourage our children to learn universally in order to understand our heritage and roots as a village, town, region and nation. Through strong community links, our children grow in **compassion** and **understanding**, promote **justice** and possess commitment and **aspire** to make a positive difference. We offer an ambitious curriculum that ignites **curiosity** along with high personal expectations that fosters **resilience** and which enables them to flourish. Our children are easily distinguished by the **courage** they show when making brave choices and understand the importance of becoming the very best versions of themselves.

St. Anne's Copp CE Primary School, Great Eccleston recognises its responsibility to promote an environment that is safe for all. In order to maintain a clean and healthy environment, and to ensure the well-being of all children and staff, this policy provides guidance as to when children should or should not be in school if showing signs of sickness/illness and the protocol which should be followed in this event.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- to ensure sick children are identified
- to ensure sick children are cared for appropriately
- to protect children and adults from preventable infection
- to enable staff and parents to be clear about the requirements and procedures when children are unwell.

Guidance

Children should not be brought to school if they are displaying signs of illness. If a child has a raised temperature and/or a rash, it may be the first sign of an infectious illness and they should not be in school.

Parents are responsible for keeping the school informed about their child's health and for ensuring that contact details are accurate.

Coughs and colds do not normally require the child to be absent from school but this depends on the severity and how the child is able to cope with the school routine. A child who is, or who appears to be unwell may be refused admission.

We ask that children do not attend school while suffering from one of the communicable diseases and they should be excluded for the minimum periods recommended by their doctor.

Children with infectious or contagious diseases/illnesses will be excluded for certain periods. If staff suspects that a child has an infectious or contagious disease, they will request that parents/carers consult a doctor before returning the child to school and the school will seek advice from the Health Protection Agency – Cumbria & Lancashire Unit on:

0844 225 1295 (Option 1 – Option 2)
Emergency out of hours – **01257 261222**

Chicken Pox – children need to be absent from school for a minimum of 5 days from the onset of the rash. After this time, if all spots have dried and scabbed over, the child can return to school.

Parents/carers will also be contacted if their child develops a rash. This will need to be checked by a doctor whose advice should be followed.

To prevent the spread of conjunctivitis, suspected cases will be reported immediately to parents who will be requested to take their child from school to seek medical advice from a GP surgery or pharmacy. When treatment commences, the child may return to school.

A child who has sickness or diarrhoea whilst at school should be collected immediately and kept absent from school for 48 hours following the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea.

If your child has not been their normal self at home but is not showing signs of illness when brought to school, parents should mention this to staff and ensure that contact details are correct and that they are obtainable.

We understand the needs of working parents and do not aim to exclude children from school unnecessarily. However the decision of school is final when requesting the exclusion of a child for illness or infection.

Decisions will take into account the needs of the child and those of the other children and staff in school and in line with the Health and Protection Agency guidance.

Procedures

If a child is thought to be unwell while at school they will be seen by a qualified first-aider so that the condition of the child may be assessed.

This will be done in a kind, caring and appropriate manner so as not to distress the child. If necessary, a senior leader will be informed.

If it is agreed that the child is not well enough to remain in school, the school will attempt to contact the parent/carer, ensuring, where possible, that every number is called so that contact may be made as soon as possible.

Whilst awaiting the arrival of parents/carers, the staff will ensure the comfort of the child, taking appropriate action, which would include seeking medical advice if necessary.

Whilst the child remains in school, his/her condition will be monitored at regular intervals.

- If the school is unable to contact the parent/carer the condition of the child will be monitored.
- If the child shows signs of improvement they may be returned to the class - staff will continue to monitor the child and speak to parents/carers at the end of the day.
- If the child's condition remains the same, school will continue to attempt to contact parents/carers and the child will be cared for in an appropriate place.
- If the child's condition deteriorates, the school will seek medical advice immediately.
- If necessary, the emergency services will be contacted.

For further information, please access : <https://www.eani.org.uk/publications/health-safety/pha-guidance-on-infection-control-in-schools-poster>