

Approved: ___21st October 2015___
Committee: Premises and Environment
Signed: ___M Knight_____

Review: Two years: __October 2017_
Website: Yes

Heron Hill Primary School

Disease Control Policy

If a child is unwell

In the course of a child's school life it is inevitable that they will come into contact with viral diseases such as chicken pox or a cold virus. We advocate a 'prevention is better than cure' approach, and recommend that children who are very unwell do not attend school. Parents are asked to call the school office on 01539 721276 and inform them of their child's illness.

National Epidemic/Pandemic

If a child develops flu-like symptoms they should stay at home and their parent should phone the family doctor. A clinical member of staff will assess the child by phone, and further investigations and/or treatment will be arranged if necessary.

Parents should inform the school if Swine Flu is confirmed.

If a child becomes unwell at school

If a child becomes unwell at school then the parent/carer will be immediately informed. The parent may be required to pick the child up from school if staff assess the child is not fit for school or may infect other children. During the admission process parents sign a consent form, allowing staff to take their child to the nearest Accident and Emergency unit to be examined, treated or admitted as necessary on the understanding that parents have been informed and are on their way to the hospital – such instances are extremely rare.

Reasons for parents to collect their child

- If the child has a temperature or sickness and diarrhoea, or has obvious symptoms of an infectious disease eg chicken pox.
- Children with head lice and conjunctivitis are not excluded, but parents will be asked to collect their child and advised to treat the condition. Then they may return the child to school.

In some instances a child may seem well enough, but due to the nature of infectious diseases they are still deemed unfit to attend school. In the case of a bout of diarrhoea or vomiting, government guidance recommends that a person stays at home for 48 hours after the last episode of illness. Heron Hill School asks for a minimum of 24 hours absence.

Treating Head Lice

If school staff suspect that a child has head lice the school inform the child's parent in confidence and asks that they treat the problem before their child returns to the school. The school then informs all parents of children within that class, that there is a case of head lice in the school and ask that they check their own children's hair promptly, and treat where appropriate. Staff will also be informed and will check their own hair before their next session. The school nurse is happy to help and advise as necessary on treatment options.

Staff practice regarding sick children

Good hygiene practice concerning the clearing of any spilled bodily fluids is carried out at all times, eg gloves, aprons, buckets, antibacterial powders for body fluid spillages on surfaces/floors, separation of sick child from others.

During bouts of colds, influenza and diarrhoea and vomiting, hand washing and the use of antibacterial hand gel and tissues is encouraged.

Sharing Information

- School will inform the Local Authority if 25% of the school is absent through illness.
- Staff are informed if office staff notice a high percentage of pupil absence through illness.
- The school will seek the advice of the school nurse in the first instance.

References

Further guidance may be found in:

- Safety Advice Notices
- School Procedures Manual
- School Health and Safety Policy
- Control of Infectious Diseases Poster – Health Protection Agency

All the above may be found in the Staff Work Room.