

# Kingsbrook School

*'A unique service for unique young people'*

## The Care of Students during Times of Illness and Sickness Absence Procedure

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## **PROCEDURE STATEMENT**

It is inevitable that at some point our students in school will become unwell. Whether this is whilst they are at home, or, when they are in school. This procedure explains the processes we follow as a school and the expectations upon parents/carers as to when their child becomes unwell. Some common childhood illnesses are listed and also more generic conditions. The procedure also explain the expectations from both parents/carers and Kingsbrook School as to if there was a medical emergency.

### **1. Expectation upon Parents/carers**

The overall expectation is that if your child is unwell and not deemed well enough to attend school to conduct the usual expectations placed upon your child such as engaging with their lessons and they are not eating and drinking normally, then they should be cared for at home and will return once well.

Every effort will be made to keep your child in school if they became unwell during the school day. However, if your child is unable, as a result of feeling unwell, able to engage with their lessons and if they are not eating and/or drinking as they would normally do, the expectation is that following on from communication between the school and parent/carer, is that your child will be collected and returned home where they can be cared for.

### **2. Coughs and Colds**

If your child is well enough to attend school with a 'common cold' then the expectation is that they will attend. School will ensure infection control measures are in place to reduce the spread of the cold, such as providing your child with their own box of tissues, encourage each child to place their own used tissues in the bin and to encourage hand washing at regular intervals and after blowing their nose. All equipment used by the student such as pens, pencils and keyboards will be sanitised after use. Students will be discouraged from sharing equipment where possible whilst displaying symptoms.

### **3. Head Lice**

If it is discovered that your child has head lice then the expectation is that you will inform the school as soon as possible. Without breaching confidentiality, a letter will be sent to all parents/carers to inform them of an 'outbreak' of head lice within school so they can regularly check and treat their child accordingly.

It is expected that your child will be treated at the soonest opportunity and they can return to school once all lice and eggs have been removed.

#### **3a. Discovery of Head Lice whilst in School**

Please be assured if head lice were to be discovered on your child whilst in school, they will be given the utmost respect, and, dignity will be maintained at all times. Staff will discretely ensure there is minimal close contact with other students and staff. Parents/carers will be contacted immediately upon discovery. Your child can remain in

school for the school day with the expectation they will be treated once home and can resume school once the lice and eggs have been removed.

#### **4. Vomiting and Diarrhoea**

If it is understood that periods of sickness and diarrhoea are as a result of a stomach 'bug', or, as a result of food poisoning, your child should remain home for 48 hours from their last bout of either sickness and/or diarrhoea. This is an infection control measure to reduce the risk of spreading the sickness 'bug' or potentially passing the food poisoning bacteria to another person.

##### **4.a. Sickness for 'Other Reasons'**

It is understood some of our students may experience vomiting for reasons other than the above; this can be anxiety driven, or, it can be motion (car) sickness, or, a side effect from another identified medical situation such as post seizure.

In these incidences; there is no requirement to keep your child from school for a set period of time so long as the reason for sickness is unrelated to a potential stomach bug or as a result of food poisoning.

##### **4b. If your Child Vomits or Experiences Diarrhoea in School**

If there is an explanation for a bout of sickness and/or diarrhoea that is not a suspected stomach bug or a food poisoning case, therefore, as a result of either anxiety, motion (car) sickness, or, a side effect from another identified medical situation such as post seizure; every effort will be made to keep your child safe and cared for in school until they feel well again. Parents/carers will be contacted at the point of your child being unwell and we will endeavour to keep you updated with regards to their well-being. However, please refer to **Point 1** if your child continues to feel unwell and they are unable to conduct their usual school day activities.

If your child continues to vomit and/or has bouts of diarrhoea then parents/carers will be contacted to collect your child from school as it is at this point, it becomes a suspected case of either a stomach bug or food poisoning.

#### **5. Infectious Illnesses/diseases/conditions**

If your child has a confirmed infectious illness/disease or condition it is expected that the parent/carer will inform the school as soon as possible once this has been confirmed via a medical practitioner. Without breaching confidentiality, all parents/carers within the school will be informed of a 'case' (for example) of Impetigo, so they are able to regularly check their child for signs and symptoms and seek the appropriate medical help and advice should they suspect a case too.

It is expected that any child with a confirmed infectious illness, disease or condition will be treated as per the medical practitioners advice and will remain at home until past the infectious period, again, as per the medical practitioners advice.

## **6. Medical Emergencies within School**

If your child became so unwell and it was deemed assistance from the emergency services were required; staff would contact the emergency services first and then parents/carers would be contacted immediately after to inform them of their child's condition. The expectation if this were to occur would be that the parent/carer would come to Kingsbrook School as soon as possible and be present for vital communication and medical information to be relayed to the paramedics. If the paramedics deemed that your child required hospitalisation then the expectation would be that the parent/carer would travel with their child to the hospital. Staff will record the incident to the point the parent/carer left with their child. Regular communication between staff/parent/carer will take place so that all concerned are updated with regards to progress and/or diagnosis.

### **6a.If the Parent/carer were unable to arrive to Kingsbrook in time before Hospitalisation**

It is acknowledged that some parents/carers live and/or work a considerable distance from Kingsbrook School. In the case of a medical emergency where it is decided by the paramedics that your child requires hospitalisation and you were unable to arrive at Kingsbrook School in time, then the following would take place:

- The parent/carer would be informed of their child going to hospital and will name the hospital.
- It will be expected that the parent/carer will go to the named hospital.
- A known and familiar to your child member of staff would travel with your child to hospital.
- The member of staff will have a 'pre prepared' emergency 'grab bag' containing parent/carer contact details and a school mobile telephone to take with them.
- The member of staff will keep in regular contact with the parent upon their child's progress.
- Once at the hospital and the location within the hospital of where your child will be is known, for example, A&E, the member of staff will contact the parent so the parent can find their child upon arrival to the hospital.
- Once the parent has been reunited with their child and all relevant information from the member of staff has been passed to the medical staff and parent, the member of staff will leave.
- Regular communication between staff/parent/carer will take place so that all concerned are updated with regards to progress and/or diagnosis.