



INFECTION CONTROL, ILLNESS AND EXCLUSION POLICY

To ensure a high standard of care to all pupils and a duty of care to our staff, the following policy applies to both pupils and staff alike.

St Gabriel's Special School has been entrusted by parents(s)/ guardian(s) to care for their children. In this capacity, we are responsible for the Health & Safety of all the children in our school. In terms of Infection Control, we are directed by the HSE Guidelines: **Management of Infectious Disease in Schools Oct. 2014** <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/lifestages/schoolhealth/File,14304,en.pdf>.

All pupil's typical baseline presentations and their individual Risk Assessments are taken into account when considering their health. Any factors which could cause a change in a child's typical presentation (e.g. medication, diet etc.) needs to be communicated to the School Nurse or to the Class Teacher at the start of the day.

Parents/ carers are asked to keep their child at home if any of the following apply, **due to illness:**

1. Your child will not be able to participate in their daily scheduled activities.
2. Your child will require a level of additional care, which will compromise the needs of the other pupils.
3. Your child is likely to pose an increased risk of illness to other pupils and/ or staff.

In addition, if a child presents with any of the following symptoms in school, **their parents/ carers will be to collect their child** as soon as possible and **within 1 hour at the latest.**

- High Temperature $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ ($\geq 98.6^{\circ}\text{F}$)
- Any Vomiting
- 2 or more incidents of Diarrhoea
- Severe discharge from the eyes/ nose
- Apparent earache/ headache/ other pain, which does not respond to medication.
- Difficulty breathing
- An unexplained rash
- Infectious Diseases as outlined in **Management of Infectious Disease in Schools Oct 2014**
- Any other symptoms of concern as outlined by the HSE

The HSE advise us that:

"Children with meningococcal infection often develop a rash that starts as red spots but will progress to purple freckles and splotches, and even frank bruising. If this occurs **CALL AN AMBULANCE, GET MEDICAL ATTENTION first and then contact parents.**"

Exclusion:

In order to ensure the health and safety of pupils and staff, pupils will continue to be excluded from the School (including School Transport) until the following conditions are met:

- Temperature – 24 hours after the temperature subsides
- Tinea (Ringworm) – Once treatment has commenced
- Untreated head lice or nits – Once the condition has been treated appropriately
- Discharge from the eyes/ Conjunctivitis – 24 hours after discharge from the eyes has stopped OR 48 hours after commencing antibiotics
- Impetigo – Until the sores have stopped blistering; until the lesions are crusted & healed; OR 48 hours after commencing antibiotics
- Vomiting/ Diarrhoea – 48 hours after last bout
- Measles – For at least 4 days after onset of rash
- Mumps – For 5 days or until swelling goes down
- Whooping Cough – For 5 days after starting antibiotic treatment
- Chickenpox – for 5-7 days and until all blisters have dried
- Rubella – Until fully recovered or for at least 7 days after the onset of rash
- Herpes Simplex (cold sores) – until lesions have dried and disappeared
- Hand, foot & mouth – Until spots have disappeared and child is fully recovered
- Meningitis/ Croup – Until fully recovered
- Hepatitis A/ Tuberculosis – Until a medical certificate is received

It is essential that the School can contact you or one of 2 other nominated persons if your child becomes ill at school. Therefore, please provide the School with up-to-date phone numbers of 3 people who can be contacted during the school day and available to collect your child, should the need arise.