

**Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart.
Colossians 2:23**



**St Mark's C of E Primary School
Sick Child Protocol**

Approved by governors: (date)

Reviewed: January 2018

To be reviewed: January 2019

Sick Child Protocol

Mission Statement

At St Mark's C of E Primary School we will:

- Welcome everyone
- Build Christian values and worship into our teaching
- Establish strong links between home, school and community
- Endeavour to reach our full potential and celebrate our achievements
- Care for, encourage and respect each other
- Support each other to stay safe, healthy and make a positive contribution to our World.

Our school is a place where every person has the right to be themselves and to belong and learn in a safe and happy environment. Everyone at our school is equal and treats each other with respect and kindness. We do not tolerate bullying.

We will:

- Ensure that sick children are appropriately and correctly identified.
- Ensure sick children are cared for appropriately.
- Protect children and adults from preventable infection.
- 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 parents do bring children to school and staff feel that they are unfit for school, parents/carers/emergency contacts will be contacted and requested to come and collect their child and requested not to return their child to school until symptom free. If a child is thought to be unwell while at school they will be seen by a qualified first aider as the condition of the child needs to be assessed. This will be done in a kind and caring manner. The child may be distressed, so it is important to be calm and reassuring. A senior leader will be informed of any sick children.

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 that a child is collected due to illness or infection. Decisions will take into account the needs of the child and those of the other children and staff in school.

Children with infectious or contagious diseases will not be permitted to attend for certain periods. If staff suspect 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 may seek advice from the Health Protection Agency.

Should a child become ill whilst at school, a member of staff will contact the parent/carer/emergency contact. While awaiting the arrival of parents, the staff will ensure the comfort of the child, taking appropriate action, which would include seeking medical advice if necessary. If the child is in danger, the staff will seek medical advice immediately. Staff will report any worries about a child's health to parents/carers immediately. Parents are responsible for keeping the school informed about their child's health.

We recommend that children do not attend school while suffering from one of the communicable diseases and they should remain at home for the minimum periods recommended by their doctor.

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 appears to be unwell may be refused admission.

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

The 48 hour rule is essential in order to protect other children or staff from contracting a bug. Unfortunately, this may mean that a child misses a school event.

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 or Pharmacy. When treatment commences, the child may return to school.

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.

Where parents have specific wishes about the treatment of their child, they should request a care plan or leave specific written instructions.

Should a member of staff consider an illness/situation to warrant immediate medical attention, they will report to a First Aider and Senior Leader who will contact emergency services and the parent/carer notified accordingly.

Signed:

Date: