

Mersey Park Primary School

Attend today: Achieve tomorrow



Is my child too ill for school?

Good attendance and punctuality are vital for success at school and to establish positive habits that are necessary for future success. All parents/carers should promote good attendance and punctuality and work in partnership with the school.

It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school when they are unwell.



There are government guidelines for schools about managing specific infectious diseases. These say when children should be kept off school and when they should not.

If you decide to keep your child at home

It is important to contact school on the first day. Let us know that your child will not be in and give us the reason on Parentapps Connect or by phone (0151 647 8197).



If your child is well enough to go to school but has an infection

If your child has an infection that could be passed on, such as a cold sore or head lice, let school know.

Other illnesses

Follow this advice for other illnesses:

Coughs and colds

It is fine to send your child to school with a minor cough or common cold but if they have a fever, keep them off school until the fever goes. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues and to wash their hands regularly.

High temperature

If your child has a high temperature, keep them off school until it goes away.

Chickenpox

If your child has chickenpox, keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.

Cold sores

There is no need to keep your child off school if they have a cold sore. Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels.

Conjunctivitis

You do not need to keep your child away from school if they have conjunctivitis. Do get advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.

COVID-19

If your child has mild symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, and feels well enough, they can go to school. Your child should stay at home and avoid contact with other people if they have symptoms of COVID-19 and they either have a high temperature or do not feel well enough to go to school or do their normal activities

What to do if your child has tested positive

Your child is no longer required to do a COVID-19 test if they have symptoms but if your child has tested positive for COVID-19, they should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day they took the test.

Ear infection

If your child has an ear infection and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they are feeling better or their high temperature goes away.

Hand, foot and mouth disease

If your child seems well enough to go to school, there is no need to keep them off. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly.

Head lice and nits

There is no need to keep your child off school. You can treat head lice and nits without seeing a GP.

Impetigo

They will need treatment from a GP, often with antibiotics. Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment. Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school.

Ringworm

If your child has ringworm, see your pharmacist unless it is on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP. It is fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.

Scarlet fever

If your child has scarlet fever, they will need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they will be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks. Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.

Slapped cheek syndrome (fifth disease)

You do not need to keep your child off school if they have slapped cheek syndrome because, once the rash appears, they are no longer infectious but let the school or teacher know if you think your child has slapped cheek syndrome.

Sore throat

You can still send your child to school if they have a sore throat but if they also have a high temperature, they should stay at home until it goes away. A sore throat and a high temperature can be symptoms of tonsillitis.

Threadworms

You do not need to keep your child off school if they have threadworms. Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.

Vomiting and diarrhoea

Children with diarrhoea or vomiting should stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea for at least 2 days (48 hours).