

# EARLY YEARS HEALTH POLICY – WHEN A CHILD ARRIVES AT THE SETTING UNWELL

Updated September 2022

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## **Illness and Medical Emergency - Procedure for an EYFS child arriving at school unwell**

If a child arrives at school and seems unwell or has been unwell during the night then the member of staff receiving them will politely suggest that the parents take their child home and, if necessary, seek medical advice or go to the doctor. In the case of vomiting or diarrhoea, school policy states that children must stay at home for **48 hours** until they are symptom free.

If a child arrives at school and has been unwell at home and has required Paracetamol, staff will advise parents to keep their child at home for observation. Parents must inform staff if their child has had Paracetamol, or any other medication, in the morning or overnight when arriving at school in the morning.

If a parent thinks that their child is well enough to attend school, then staff will ask parents if they are available should their child become unwell and need to be collected. Staff will politely remind parents that we do not usually administer non-prescribed medicines. Throughout the school day, if staff think the child is not well enough to remain at school, then staff will follow the 'Child Ill in the Setting' Procedure.

If a parent decides to come into school to administer medicine to their child, they must inform staff. They must also inform staff of the medication their child is taking, when they started the course and when the course ends. If a child is taking a course of antibiotics, the child must stay at home for the first 24 hours of the course in case they have a reaction to the medication. It is thought that a child who has started a course of antibiotics is usually too unwell to attend school.

Under certain circumstances, staff can administer medication. Please also refer to the Administration of Medicines Protocol.

In the EYFS, staff always keep records of any medicine that has been administered. Parents are informed straight away or as soon as reasonably practicable.

When a child returns to school after being unwell, parents must inform staff about the child's illness and treatment.

If children need to receive medication in school hours parents need to fill in the form 'Parental Agreement for Shrewsbury High School to Administer Medicine', copies are freely available on Firefly.

<https://shrewsburyhigh.fireflycloud.net/medical/medicine-consent->

### A child who appears to be suffering from an infectious or contagious illness or disease

If a child arrives at school and the member of staff in charge has been informed the child possibly has an infectious illness or disease, then the parents will be advised to seek medical advice from their doctor. We do not admit any child onto the premises who appears to be suffering from an infectious or contagious illness or disease. Guidelines for exclusion periods for such illnesses will be followed and parents will be informed.

The school nurse and all staff will be informed. Certain infectious diseases are notifiable to the local health authority; this is the responsibility of the GP or Nurse who makes the diagnosis. The school nurse will also inform parents of exclusion periods for the more common contagious diseases e.g. chicken pox.

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From March 2020, please also refer to whole school COVID guidance and protocols, as well as risk assessments in regards to a child arriving unwell to a setting:

[T:\Staff\Prep Staff\A. Information for Staff 2020-21](#)

Ryan King  
**Head of Early Years**  
**September 2022**