



Sick Child Policy

Review February 2026

Herrick Primary adheres to the following procedure when excluding children who are unwell with an infectious disease.

Parents/carers will be contacted if a child becomes ill whilst in the setting, and asked to collect their child.

Children who have a temperature of 38c or above, sickness and diarrhoea, conjunctivitis or any other infectious disease will be sent home.

Children with head lice are not excluded (unless heavily infested, in which case parents will be contacted and asked to collect), but must be treated to remedy the condition. Parents are notified by a letter if there is a case of head lice in the setting.

If informed by the NHS of any infectious diseases, parents will be informed.

Good hygiene practice concerning the clearing of any spilled bodily fluids is carried out at all times.

Children who have been vomiting or had diarrhoea should not return to school until at least 48 hours has elapsed since the last attack.

Parents are asked not to return their child to school following a notifiable infectious or contagious disease such as Chicken Pox, Mumps, Conjunctivitis etc., until the recommended isolation period is complete, and there are no traces of the infection.

Cuts and open sores, whether on adults or children, will be covered with a dressing.

If a child is ill they will be looked after in the medical room.

Exclusion of sick children from school

We understand the needs of working parents and do not aim to exclude children from school unnecessarily. However the decision of the school is final when requesting the exclusion of a child for illness or infection. Decisions will take into account the needs of the child and those of the group.

Children with infectious or contagious diseases must not attend school until the infection has completely cleared. If a member of staff suspects that a child has an infectious or contagious disease, they will request that parents consult a doctor before returning the child to school.

No child may attend the school while suffering from one of the communicable diseases and they should be excluded for the minimum periods recommended.

Coughs and colds do not normally require the child to be excluded but this depends on the severity and how the child is able to cope with the school routine. If a child appears unwell we may ask that the child is taken home.

Although exposure of children to a communicable disease is not in itself sufficient reason to require their exclusion from school, any child who becomes a home contact of diphtheria, poliomyelitis, typhoid and paratyphoid fevers will be excluded.

A child who has sickness or diarrhoea whilst at the school is to be collected immediately and kept away for 24 hours following the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea.

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 be seen by a doctor.

Exclusion Period

Diarrhoea and vomiting - 48 hours from last episode of diarrhoea & vomiting

Diarrhoea OR vomiting - 48 hours from last episode of diarrhoea OR vomiting if outbreak

Chicken Pox – when all spots have crusted over

German measles (Rubella) - 5 days from onset of rash

Hand foot and mouth - Until disease has gone

Impetigo - Until sores are crusted or healed

Measles - 5 days from onset of rash

Ringworm - Until treatment commenced

Scarlet fever - 5 days after commencing antibiotics

Warts and Verrucae - None, but should be covered if on feet

Conjunctivitis - Until clear

Head Lice - None - treatment required from parent – however, we reserve the right to exclude a heavily infested child until treated, to contain the spread of head lice

Mumps - 5 days from onset of swollen glands

Tonsillitis - None, but see GP for treatment

Whooping Cough - 5 days from commencement of antibiotic treatment or 21 days from onset of illness if no antibiotic treatment

'Flu' (influenza) - Until recovered

Athletes foot - None

Cold sores (herpes simplex) - None

Scabies - Child can return after first treatment

Shingles - Exclude only if rash is weeping & cannot be covered

Thread worm - None