Illness Guidance
Sickness & Diarrhoea
’48-hour Rule’

Meadowfield

To inspire and motivate all pupils and staff who learn and work together to aspire to endless possibilities.

Illness Guidance & Sickness & Diarrhoea ’48-hour Rule’

When is too ill for School?

It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school when they're unwell. However, there are Public Health and Government Guidelines for schools and parents/carers that state when children should be kept off school and when they can still attend.

Please click the link below to view the **Public Health Poster**, with full details of illnesses, the action that should/should not be taken and if time away from school is required:

https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/publications/guidance-infection-control-schools-and-other-childcare-settings-0

https://meadowfieldschool.sharepoint.com/sites/SharedLibraries/LG Policies/LG - Policies/POLICIES - MEADOWFIELD SCHOOL/POLICIES - School/PROCEDURE - Illness and the 48 hour rule.docxPlease click the link below to view the **Government Guidelines**, with full details of illnesses, the action that should/should not be taken and if time away from school is required: https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/

If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school on the first day of illness to let us know that they will not be attending, together with the reason for their non-attendance.

If your child is well enough to go to school but has an infection that could be passed on, such as a cold sore or head lice, let their teacher know.

Sickness & Diarrhoea ’48-hour Rule’

From time to time children are sick (vomit) either at home or at school. Unfortunately, it is not possible to distinguish between the causes, and therefore it is essential that the same rule of exclusion applies in all cases of vomiting or Diarrhoea.

It is generally accepted that anyone who has had sickness and/or diarrhoea must not go swimming for 14 days and we apply this rule to the hydro pool and pupils going swimming at Faversham Pool.

In the Public Health Agency document, “Guidelines for the Control of Infection and Communicable Disease in School and Early Years Settings”, the guidance is:

Diarrhoea and Vomiting exclusion

Diarrhoea and/or vomiting commonly affects children and staff and can be caused by a number of different germs, including viruses, parasites and bacteria. Infections can be easily spread from person to person (by unwashed hands), especially in children. In general, it is recommended that any child with diarrhoea and/or vomiting symptoms must stay away or be excluded from the school or early years setting until they have been free of symptoms for 48-hours (the ’48-hour rule’) and feel well. Personal hygiene whilst ill must be very strict.

If your child is sick at school, we will ask you or your emergency contact to take your child home. They should not return for 48-hours. We appreciate that this is inconvenient in many cases, and you may not believe your child is ill, but you will appreciate that we do this in all cases and it should reduce the risk of infection for all children in school. As an example, if your child is sick at lunchtime on a Tuesday, they should not return to school until after lunch on Thursday, provided there have not been any further episodes of vomiting.

Thank you for your understanding.

Statutory Procedures/School Policy **Approved by Leadership Team**	
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