



Our Lady of Fatima Special School

Roll No.	19266T
Principal Teacher	Glenda McKeown
Policy	Sickness Policy
Date created	February 2024
Date reviewed	September 2024
Date reviewed	
Approved by	<i>Richard Gleeson</i>
	Chairperson, Board of Management
Date for review	Annually

Our Lady of Fatima



Rational

All children will experience some level of sickness from time to time. Sickness in settings where there is a group of people together can be problematic as it can result in the sickness being passed from person to person. Such situations can often mean the sickness lingers within a setting for much longer than it should. While sickness is a part of growing up it can create special concerns for parents of children and for the staff that work with them. In order to attempt to control sickness, among both pupils and staff within Our Lady of Fatima, the school has drawn up the following policy for sickness among pupils..

Health / Illness

Please notify staff at Our Lady of Fatima School if your child is unwell and unable to attend if possible before 9 am. Bus Escort to be informed if a child has been administered P.R.N. medication or has been unwell in school. Bus Escort will be given guidance as to complications that may arise and symptoms that need to be observed. All absences to be recorded on Aladdin.

The school seeks to promote and encourage good health and hygiene for all the children in our care. This includes monitoring the children for signs and symptoms of communicable illnesses, for example, diarrhoea, vomiting, eye infections, chicken pox and measles etc. If your child has an infectious illness, please inform us. Exclusion periods for childhood illnesses vary and this information is available from your GP. However, if there is an outbreak of an illness that is highly contagious the exclusion periods will be extended.

In the School setting, there is always the possibility of cross infection between children, from children to staff, and from staff to children. Should a child become ill while in our care, and if the school feels there is cause for concern, the parents/guardians will be notified. If the school feels the child should be sent home parents will be asked to collect their child. In the case of severe illness or accident the school will ring an ambulance and inform parents of this course of action.

Administering of Regular Mediation

If your child requires medication during the school day on a regular or ongoing basis, parents/guardians must notify the Principal in writing as soon as possible.

- See Administering of Medication Policy.

Symptoms to be Aware of: In the case that your child presents with any of the following symptoms please do not send them to school.

Sticky Eye: This is an infectious condition. Close contact between children necessitates rapid treatment. IF your child possibly has sticky eye the school will request parents to seek treatment. If it is confirmed, the child can return 24 hours after treatment is commenced. Parents/Guardians should ask their doctor to prescribe drops rather than ointment for continued use on return to the School.

Diarrhoea and/or Vomiting: Definition, frequent loose motions, one loose motion does not constitute diarrhoea, two or more loose motions probably is diarrhoea. Many cases will be diet related and are not infectious. Where an infection is confirmed, the child should be excluded from contact with others at the school. In cases of non-contagion, the child should also be excluded from contact with others at the school until this is confirmed (48 hours).

Rash/Impetigo: In the absence of a temperature, a rash may be nothing to worry about. Where a rash exists in l child medical help should be sought immediately and the rash should be confirmed non-contagious or non-infectious before the child is brought into school.

Head Lice

Head lice and nits are very common in young children. They live in clean and unwashed hair and are usually spread through head-to-head contact. A letter will be sent home to parents/guardians informing them if headlice is noticed in school.

Ringworm

Ringworm is a contagious fungal infection caused by common mold-like parasites that live on the cells in the outer layer of your skin. It can be spread in the following ways: Human to human. Ringworm often spreads by direct, skin-to-skin contact with an infected person. Animal to human. Parents/Guardians will be informed if this is noticed in school.

High Temperature: Frequently the result of a simple viral infection. When a child develops a temperature while in our care, as long as the child is not significantly ill, first aid measures will be

taken to cool the child such as removing excess clothing, tepid sponging, and giving cool drinks. With written parental permission, one dose of Calpol Junior or Nurofen Junior will be administered. Should these measures not result in a temperature reduction, or if the child's condition deteriorates, the parents/guardians will be informed.

Infected colds and coughs: As evidenced through infected (green) mucus discharged through a phlegmy cough or runny nose. In such cases medical advice should be sought and child should not return to school until the discharge is clear.

Sickness – Children who become sick are sent home. Students to remain at home for 48 hours after symptoms have disappeared (link to Health and Safety Policy).

The guidelines apply to all the children at the School.

Accidents: In the case of a minor accident, a member of staff will inform parents of the incident when they are collected. Accidents may occur despite the close monitoring of a staff member. When deemed necessary by a nurse first aid will be administered to the pupil.

Only when there is cause for concern, and as recommended by a nurse, is an ambulance called or the child taken to Accident and Emergency. If a serious accident or illness occurs the parent/guardian is contacted immediately and the appropriate action taken. In the event of the parent/guardian not being available a senior member of staff will take any necessary action, which may include taking the child to hospital along with all the relevant records. All accidents are recorded.

Ratified by the Board of Management on _____.



Signed: _____.

Chairperson, B.O.M.

