



Garrowhill Primary School

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**Head Teacher
Linda Logue**

4th February 2020

Dear Parents/carers,

During the winter months many of us, adults and children alike, will suffer from minor ailments such as colds and sore throats. Parents and carers often have to make a difficult decision in the morning as to a child's fitness for school. This can be difficult to judge early in the morning as symptoms can often be worse at this time of day. School staff appreciate the pressures working families can be under in these circumstances but we are asking that you do not send your child to school if they have been vomiting, have suffered from diarrhoea within the last 24 hours or have a temperature.

Until now, where you judge your child well enough to attend school but your child then reports to staff that they are unwell, school staff have tried to support your decision as best they can by encouraging the child to remain in school if there are no obvious signs of illness. Staff then monitor their participation in lessons and play. All staff across the school make the children's welfare a priority. If staff have any doubts or concerns, parents would be contacted. This approach was intended to support working families and minimise disruption to your work life.

However, we are experiencing an increasing number of incidents where the responsibility to take a decision as to fitness for school is falling to school staff as a result of this position.

Going forward, to minimise any risk to children and to school staff, parents and carers will be contacted immediately should a child complain of feeling unwell. Our expectation is that a parental decision will be made as to the child's fitness and the parent will either arrange for the child to be collected immediately or instruct staff to keep the child in school.

If a parent feels the child is not ill but is suffering from some other school related worry, this can then be discussed in more detail with staff.

It is important that all children, as they grow and develop, are supported by the adults around them to understand the importance of good attendance but that illness occurs and absence from work and school is necessary on these occasions.

Attendance at school is monitored every 8 weeks. Where a child has had an absence from school due to illness or any other reason that causes the attendance rate to fall below 90%, parents will be notified in writing. This is not a criticism, merely information sharing. As a school our attendance rate is normally slightly above the average of the city and we aim to sustain this at approximately 96%.



The school's position on the care of children with long term conditions has not changed. A full copy of our administration of medicines policy and our welfare policy are available on the school website.

To help assess your child's fitness for school please click on the links below.

NHS – Is my child too ill for school?

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school>

Government Guidelines

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/chapter-9-managing-specific-infectious-diseases>

Many thanks,
Mrs Logue - HT

