

EYFS DEPARTMENT

E4 EYFS Illness and Exclusion Policy

Managing children who are sick or infectious (Including reporting notifiable diseases)

This Policy applies to the Early Years Department and is published to staff and parents.

Author: S Bullen (Co-Head of Junior Department)

This review: July 2026

Next review date: July 2027

General Welfare Requirement: Safeguarding and Promoting Children's Welfare

The provider must promote the good health of the children, take necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection, and take appropriate action when they are ill.

EYFS Key themes and commitments

A Unique Child	Positive Relationships	Enabling Environments	Learning and Development
1.2 Inclusive practice 1.4 Health and wellbeing	2.2 Parents as partners 2.4 Key person	3.2 Supporting every child	

Introduction

We provide care for children and promote health through preventing cross infection of viruses and bacterial infections.

Procedures for children who are sick or infectious:

- If children appear unwell during the day – have a temperature, sickness, diarrhoea or pains, particularly in the head or stomach – Matron or a staff member will assess the child. If deemed necessary, the class teacher or Matron will call the parents/carers and ask them to collect the child or send a known carer to collect the child on their behalf.
- If a child has a temperature, they are kept cool by removing top clothing, sponging their heads with cool water, but are kept away from draughts.
- Temperature is taken using either a thermometer or a 'fever scan' kept near to the first aid boxes.
- In an emergency, the child will be taken to the nearest hospital and the parents informed.
- If appropriate, parents are asked to take their child to the doctor before returning them to school; the school can refuse admittance to children who have a temperature, sickness and diarrhoea or a contagious infection or disease.
- Where children have been prescribed antibiotics, we recommend that parents keep them at home for 48 hours before returning to the setting.
- After vomiting, parents are asked to keep children at home for 48 hours after the symptoms have ceased.
- After diarrhoea, parents are asked to keep children at home for 48 hours until symptoms have ceased or until a formed stool is passed.

- The setting has a list of excludable diseases and current exclusion times. The full list is obtainable from: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/notifiable-diseases-and-causative-organisms-how-to-report#history> (Published: September 2024; Updated: May 2026; Accessed: July 2026).

Reporting of ‘notifiable diseases’

- Public Health England (PHE) aims to detect possible outbreaks of disease and epidemics as rapidly as possible. Accuracy of diagnosis is secondary, and since 1968 clinical suspicion of a notifiable infection is all that is required.
- ‘Notification of infectious diseases’ is the term used to refer to the statutory duties for reporting notifiable diseases in the [Public Health \(Control of Disease\) Act 1984](#) and the [Health Protection \(Notification\) Regulations 2010](#).
- Registered medical practitioners (RMPs) have a statutory duty to notify the ‘proper officer’ at their local council or local health protection team (HPT) of suspected cases of certain infectious diseases.
- When the setting becomes aware, or is formally informed of the notifiable disease, the School Matron contacts the Health Protection Agency and acts upon any advice given.

HIV/AIDS/Hepatitis procedure

- HIV virus, like other viruses such as Hepatitis, (A, B and C) are spread through body fluids.
- Hygiene precautions for dealing with body fluids are the same for all children and adults.
- Single use vinyl gloves and aprons are worn when changing children’s pants and clothing that are soiled with blood, urine, faeces or vomit.
- Protective rubber gloves are used for handling clothing after changing.
- Soiled clothing is bagged for parents to collect.
- Spills of blood, urine, faeces or vomit are cleared using a disinfectant solution or disposed of appropriately if it is not possible to clean effectively; cloths used are disposed of with the clinical waste in a yellow bag.
- Tables and other furniture, furnishings or toys affected by blood, urine, faeces or vomit are cleaned using a disinfectant.

Head lice

- Head lice are not an excludable condition, although in exceptional cases a parent may be asked to keep the child away until the infestation has cleared.
- On identifying cases of head lice, all parents are informed and asked to treat their child and all the family if they are found to have head lice.

Further guidance

Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-pupils-at-school-with-medical-conditions-3> (Accessed: July 2026)

Health protection in schools and other childcare facilities

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities> (Updated July 2026; Accessed: July 2026)