

The St Michael Steiner School

Infectious and Communicable Diseases policy and procedure

We are committed to the health and safety of all staff and pupils and as such, will take necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection. It will sometimes be necessary to require a poorly child to be collected early or be kept at home while they get better.

Parents/carers will be notified immediately if their child has become ill and needs to go home. Poorly children will be comforted, kept safe and under close supervision until they are collected.

If a child has had to go home prematurely due to illness, they should remain at home until they are better (usually at least 24 hours, except for something like food poisoning), or according to the times set out in the table below. If a member of staff becomes ill at work, similar restrictions on their return should be observed.

If any infectious or communicable disease is detected at school, we will inform parents/carers by email as soon as possible and, in the case of notifiable diseases¹, the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and the Independent Schools Inspectorate.

Head lice and thread worms

When a case of head lice or thread worms is discovered, the child concerned will not be isolated from other children and there is no need for them to be excluded. Parents/carers will be informed in a sensitive manner, other parents/carers will be notified by email from the school, and all will be given advice and guidance on treating head lice/ worms.

Staff will check themselves regularly for lice and treat whenever necessary.

Minimum Exclusion Periods for Illnesses and Diseases

DISEASE	PERIOD OF EXCLUSION
Chicken Pox	7 days from when the rash first appeared
Conjunctivitis	24 hours or until the eyes have stopped 'weeping'
COVID-19 [Notifiable disease]	5 days isolation after diagnosis or until symptoms disappear.
Diarrhoea	24 hours
Diphtheria	[exclude] Notifiable disease, local HPU will advise
Gastro-enteritis, food poisoning,	48 hours from last episode of vomiting/diarrhoea
Dysentery	24 hours or until advised by the doctor/local HPU
Glandular Fever	None
Hand, Foot and Mouth disease	None – contact local HPU re exclusion if large no. of children affected
Hepatitis A	7 days from onset of jaundice & when recovered [Notifiable disease]
Hepatitis B	None [Notifiable disease]
High temperature	24 hours
Impetigo antibiotics]	Until skin has healed [or 48 hours after commencing

¹ There is a statutory duty to report notifiable diseases in the [Public Health \(Control of Disease\) Act 1984](#) and the [Health Protection \(Notification\) Regulations 2010](#). The list of notifiable diseases is here: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/820133/PHE_Notifiable_diseases_poster_HPT.pdf

Measles	4 days from when the rash first appeared [Notifiable disease]
Meningitis	Until certified well [Notifiable disease]
Mumps	7 days minimum or until the swelling has subsided [Notifiable disease]
Pediculosis (lice)	None
Pertussis (Whooping cough) antibiotics –	21 days from the onset [or 5 days from commencing Notifiable disease]
Plantar warts	Should be treated and covered
Poliomyelitis	Until certified well
Ringworm of scalp	Until cured
Ringworm of the body	exclusion not generally required
Rubella (German Measles)	6 days from onset of rash [Notifiable disease]
Scabies	Until treatment has been given
Scarlet fever	24 hours after commencing antibiotics [Notifiable disease]
Tonsilitis	None
Tuberculosis	Always consult HPU [Notifiable disease]
Typhoid fever [disease]	Until declared free from infection by a doctor [Notifiable disease]
Warts (including Verrucae)	Exclusion not necessary. Sufferer should keep feet covered.

This list is not exhaustive, and staff are encouraged to contact local health services if they are in any doubt.

Review date: November 2026