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Lanesend Primary School

Sick Child Policy

Safeguarding and Welfare of Children Policy

Signed: Date:
(Headteacher)

Signed: Date:
(Chair of Governors)

Review Date: December 2018 (Every 3 Years)
Reviewed By: Headteacher and Child-Centred Group

Lanesend Primary Sick Child Policy

At Lanesend Primary School we believe it is of paramount importance that children are in school as often as possible in order that they can make the best possible progress. The health and wellbeing of children is of paramount importance and we wish to support all families who have any concerns about their child's wellbeing. Lanesend Primary School recognises its responsibility to promote a culture where health issues are discussed in an open and positive way to achieve high standards.

Aims:

- To ensure sick children are identified
- To ensure sick children are cared for appropriately
- To protect children and adults from preventable infection
- To enable staff and families to be clear about the requirements and procedures when children are unwell
- To deal efficiently and effectively emergencies that may arise while children are in our care.

Procedures for Sick Children:

If a child becomes ill in school the following procedures will be followed.

- If a child informs their teacher that they feel unwell the teacher will identify and carry out appropriate next steps, which may include taking their temperature, having water, being in a quiet area, asking when they have last eaten and how they feel before a decision to send a child home is made.
- If a child has sickness or diarrhea they will be sent home immediately, children should not return to school until the day following their last case of sickness/diarrhea.
- If a child is unwell they will be taken to the school office and a member of staff will contact families after a discussion with the Headteacher or Deputy Head.
- If contact cannot be made with families then staff will contact the emergency contacts provided by the families on the admissions form/cards/SIMs.
- The child will be made comfortable while they wait to be collected.
- A first aider will always be consulted for advice on an illness.
- If families/ emergency contacts cannot be reached the child will be made comfortable and monitored and staff will continue to try to make contact.
- If a notifiable disease is suspected the admin manager/ Appointed Person will contact the health protection agency and school will follow the advice given. The school will also inform Ofsted if a notifiable disease is confirmed by the health protection agency.
- In the case of an emergency when the child's health is at risk an ambulance will be called and a member of staff will accompany the child to hospital. Families/ authorised adult will be contacted.
- If a child is off sick from school families are expected to ring in each morning and leave a message giving the reason for their child's absence before 9.30am.
- Absences will be recorded on the Pupil Absence Sickness sheet, held in the Main Office and monitored by the Family Liaison Officer, who will follow our Absence Policy.

Medication: Please see: Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy

Sun Protection:

The staff understand the dangers posed to children and themselves by over exposure to the sun. In hot weather, families are encouraged to provide sun screen for their children. Children will also be encouraged to wear a hat when playing outside in the sun. In hot weather, staff will encourage children to drink water frequently. Staff should also ensure that shady areas out of the sun are always available to children when playing outside.

Children remaining at home when sick:

We understand the needs of working families and do not aim to for children to be absent from school unnecessarily. However the decision of the Headteacher is final when requesting a child remains at home for illness or infection. Decisions will take into account the needs of the child and those of the group.

Children with infectious or contagious diseases will be asked to remain at home for certain periods. If the Headteacher suspects that a child has an infectious or contagious disease, they will request that families consult a doctor before returning the child to school.

We recommend that no child may attend the school while suffering from one of the communicable diseases and they should remain at home for the minimum periods recommended. Please see guidelines to illness / communicable diseases provided by the Health Protection Agency and our guidance in Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy.

Coughs and colds do not normally require the child to stay at home but this can depend on the severity and how the child is able to cope with the school routine. If a child appears unwell we may ask that the child is taken home.

Although exposure of children to a communicable disease is not in itself sufficient reason to require their absence from school, any child who becomes a home contact of diphtheria, poliomyelitis, typhoid and paratyphoid fevers will be asked to remain at home until advice is obtained from a doctor.

A child who has sickness or diarrhea whilst at the school is to be collected immediately and kept away until the day following their last case of sickness/diarrhea.

Families will always be contacted and informed if their child has a high temperature of 101F / 38C or above. To prevent the spread of conjunctivitis, suspected cases will be reported immediately to families who will be requested to take their child from school to be seen by a doctor.

Chicken Pox – children need to be absent from school until all vesicles have crusted over.

Families will also be contacted if their child develops a rash or suspected thrush. This will need to be checked by a Doctor whose advice should be followed.

School Hygiene:

We understand as a school that hygiene is the key to preventing the spread of communicable diseases and infections. We teach the children how to wash their hands and ensure their hands are washed after going to the toilet and before handling or eating food. We ensure the school is cleaned daily to a high standard, however when an outbreak of a communicable disease or illness occurs then extra cleaning takes place using Milton in areas where infection spreads easily, i.e. toilets, door handles. Sand and Play Dough will be disposed of and replaced. Water play facilities are sterilised as well as equipment that is shared. If sickness and diarrhea occurs, then this is cleaned as soon as possible to avoid contamination. The school is regularly ventilated to prevent airborne infections.

Health Protection Agency:

PHE South East

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