

Special Consideration in School

You need to contact the school if your child has had hospital or surgical treatment and is returning with stitches or a plaster cast or if they need to restrict their PE lessons, playtimes and lunchtimes.

Prescribed Medication

Sometimes you may keep your child off school because they are taking a prescribed medication. In many cases school, with your prior consent, is able to administer this medicine to your child. If any prescribed medicine is needed in school, this must be handed into the school office by you as a parent/carer where you will be asked to complete a form giving details of the medication, dosage and authorising a member of school staff to give administer it to your child.

Informing School of an Absence

If your child is absent due to a minor illness you must contact the school office before 9:30am informing them of the reason for the absence. In some cases, medical evidence may be requested to support this such as an appointment card, medication, prescription etc.

Appointments during School Time

If your child has a pre-arranged hospital, doctors or dental appointment, a copy of the letter/card must be brought to the school office BEFORE they are absent where a copy will be taken for your child's file.

Absence Quick Guide

Child has medical appointment or is considered too ill to attend school.

Day 1 of absence— Inform the school before 9:30am of reason and expected return date of your child. Give details of any medical advice given or visit made.

Day 3 of absence— Update the school on your child's progress, any medical advice given and confirmation of when your child will return to school especially if condition worsens.

Day 5 onwards— Update the school on your child's progress regularly. Medical evidence will be requested for five days absence or more.

School Contact Details

You will need to ensure that the school has your current contact details including your work, home and mobile telephone numbers together with emergency ones too.

It is important that the school is able to contact you during the day if necessary should your child be absent without approval or become unwell.

Market Drayton Infant School & Nursery
Longslow Ladybirds Playgroup & Longlands Pre-School

Longslow Road, Market Drayton, Shropshire, TF9 3BA

Telephone: 01630 652909

01630 657857 (Longlands Pre-School)

email: admin@mdis.shropshire.sch.uk

School Absence

Guidance for Parents

Medical Appointments and Illness



This leaflet has been designed to help you make the right choices and advise you on the correct action to take when your child is ill or absent.

Frequent absence is a serious problem for pupils as often much of the work they miss is not made up, leaving these pupils at a significant disadvantage for the remainder of the school year(s). There is a clear link between poor school attendance and low levels of achievement. Your help and support is required to address this problem as quickly as possible.

The main reason for pupil absence from school is illness.

When deciding whether or not your child is too unwell to attend school ask yourself the following questions:

- Is my child well enough to do the activities of the school day?
- Does my child have a condition that could be passed onto other children or school staff?
- Would I take a day off if I had this condition?

Think carefully before keeping your child away from school for medical reasons. If they wake up saying they are unwell, consider whether the symptoms they have mean they need to stay at home.

Do not keep your child away from school 'just in case' when they could be in class learning with their friends.

If your child requires a medical appointment, these should be made outside school hours wherever possible.

However, if your child has an appointment during school time, you will need to bring the appointment card or letter to the school office in order that the absence can be authorised.

Common Conditions

If your child is ill, it is likely to be due to one of a few minor conditions. Whether you choose to send your child to school will depend on how severe you think the illness is.

This guidance may assist you.

- **Chicken Pox**. Children should be kept at home for 5 days from the onset of the rash.
- **Coughs/Colds**. A child with a minor cough or cold may attend school. If the cold is accompanied by a raised temperature, shivers or drowsiness, they should stay at home.
- **Earache**. Medical advice should be sought.
- **Headache**. A child with a headache does not normally need to be absent from school. If the headache is more severe and accompanied by other symptoms, you should seek medical advice.
- **Measles**. Children should be kept at home for 4 days from the onset of the rash.
- **Rashes**. Rashes can be the first sign of many infectious diseases. If your child has a rash, check with a pharmacist, practice nurse or GP before sending to school.
- **Toothache**. School attendance should be maintained until your child can be seen by a dentist.
- **Vomiting and/or Diarrhoea**. Children with these symptoms should be kept at home for 48 hours after their symptoms have gone.

Confidential medical advice can be sought from 8am onwards in relation to minor ailments from most pharmacies.

There is **no** reason for your child to be absent from school for minor ailments such as:

- * Conjunctivitis
- * Head Lice
- * Hand Foot & Mouth
- * Slapped Cheek
- * Tonsillitis
- * Sore Throat
- * Cold Sores
- * Warts & Verrucae

Absence for 3 days or more

If your child has time off school:

- due to illness for more than three days, or
- is regularly absent for short periods of time, or
- is on a Warning over attendance from the Local Authority

you may be asked to produce some supporting evidence (appointment cards etc.)

More Serious Conditions

- **Asthma**. If your child has been diagnosed with asthma, you will need to inform the school. It is the parent/carers responsibility to ensure their child has an inhaler in school at all times, labelled with their name and is IN DATE.
- **Impetigo**. If your child has, or you suspect they have impetigo, you must seek medical advice and keep your child away from school until the sores have scabbed over and are healing, or 48 hours after starting prescribed medication. Don't forget to wash your hands to prevent the illness spreading.
- **Glandular Fever**. This condition is not caught by day to day contact, therefore your child does not need to stay away from school.

More detailed information on all exclusions for infections and illnesses is available from the School Office.