

### **Longer term absence**

A letter from a parent is needed when:

- A child has any condition requiring hospital or surgical care.
- Your child returns to school with a cast or stitches.
- Your child needs restricted PE lessons.

In cases of concern, schools or parents can ask for the advice of the school nurse, who may talk to your child in school, a risk assessment may also need to be completed.

### **Medication**

We can give certain medications during the school day if they are prescribed to the child by a doctor, the medicine must remain in the original box with all original instructions. If your child has been prescribed medication for an illness, or needs medication on a regular basis, you must liaise with the school office to complete the necessary forms.

### **Good common sense**

Use good common sense when deciding whether your child needs to stay at home. Please remember that early morning aches often pass, so don't keep your child at home 'just in case' when they could be learning in class. If you are not sure, check the guidance in this leaflet, and consider sending your child into school for the afternoon session.

For further advice you could talk to a member of the school staff, your doctor or the school nurse at the numbers below:

#### **School Office:**

01202 685459

#### **School Nursing Team:**

01202 691520

#### **Inclusion Team for Guidance:**

Mrs Chloe Moore ext 214 (mon-Fri)

Mrs Karen Gardner ext 216 (Mon-Wed)

#### **NHS Direct**

111

#### **NHS Direct**

[www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

#### **Poole Family Information Services**

01202 261999

[www.poolefamilyinformationdirectory.com](http://www.poolefamilyinformationdirectory.com)



BAYSIDE  
ACADEMY

# A Guide to School Attendance

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## Introduction

At Bayside Academy, we are working closely with parents and students to ensure that the young people in our care have the best possible attendance.

Research shows a direct relationship between the level of attendance and attainment and in our current economic climate we need to set ourselves up for success.

To achieve this aim, we all work in partnership with parents/carers to make sure all our pupils attend as fully as possible.

Attendance of Bayside Academy is good but we have found a steady increase in the number of pupils missing school for minor illnesses.

Based on advice provided, the Health Service and the School Attendance and Inclusion Team have produced this leaflet as a general guide to help you decide whether your son or daughter is well enough to attend school.

## Is my child well enough to attend school?

### Raised temperature

If your child looks or feels shivery, they may have a raised temperature. This may be due to a variety of reasons. If you have taken the recommended steps to reduce the temperature (e.g. Calpol) but your child is still showing symptoms, they should not be in school. However, your child should be able to return to school within 24 hours after they feel and look better.

### Colds and coughs

A child may attend school with minor colds and coughs. However children with very bad coughs or chest infections need to stay at home. When the cough is disappearing and the child is feeling better, they need to return to school.

### Rashes

A rash could be the first sign of one of many childhood illnesses, such as chickenpox or measles. The rash or spots may cover the entire body or just appear in only one area. Do not send a child to school with an unexplained rash or eruption until you have seen your doctor.

### Minor aches and pains

In most cases your child will be well enough to attend school. For example, you don't need to keep a child at home whose only complaint is a minor headache. Again, take the recommended steps. However, if your child has a **persistent** tooth or ear ache, they will need to see a dentist or doctor.

### Vomiting and diarrhoea

If your child vomits, or has diarrhoea and this is due to a sickness bug, keep your child home until they can keep food down and the diarrhoea has cleared. The school office will be able to advise as to an appropriate return date, however it is generally recommended, as a parent/carer knows their child best, if you feel it is due to a sickness bug, then please allow 48 hours.

### See your doctor if your child does not improve as you would expect.

### Sore throat

If your child complains of a slight sore throat and has no other symptoms, they are fit to go to school. If the sore throat occurs with a raised temperature, they may need to stay at home.

### Medical/GP appointments

If it is not an emergency, routine appointments are to be booked out of school hours.

### Communication

If your child is unwell on a school day, please ring the school **before 9am on 01202 685459** and leave a message on the child absent line, leaving the child's name, class and reason for absence.

### Collecting your child from school

The school is used to dealing with minor ailments and illnesses so be assured that a first aider will make an appropriate judgement and contact you if your child needs to be collected from school because of illness. **It is your responsibility as a parent/carer to ensure the emergency contact details the school holds for your child are always up-to-date.**