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 need restricted PE lesson.

In cases of concern, schools or parents can ask for the advice of the school nurse, who may talk to your child in school.

Medication
We can give certain medications during the school day if they are prescribed to the child by a doctor. 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 you child needs to stay at home. Please remember that early morning aches often pass, so don't keep your child at '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 574212

Inclusion Team Lead:
Mr David Read
01202 574212

NHS Direct
111

www.bournemouthandpoole.nhs.uk

Elm Primary Academy
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning

A Guide to School Attendance

Introduction

At Elm 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 Elm 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 Safeguarding 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 illness, such a 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, keep your child home until they can keep food down. A child with diarrhoea should also be kept at home. The school office will be able to advise as to an appropriate return date, however it is generally recommended that you 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 must be booked out of school hours.

Communication

If your child is unwell on a school day, contact the school office **before 9am on 01202 574212** to give your 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. **Please ensure that the contact details the school holds for you are always up-to-date.**