

**St Michael's House Grosvenor School,
Leopardstown Road, Dublin 18**

Illness and Infection Policy

St Michael's House Grosvenor School has active Infection Control and Illness in School guidelines in operation. These are in line with St. Michael's House Infection Control Policy (2017) and the management of Infectious Diseases in Schools (HSE 2013).

Infections in children are common, some acute (just there for a short time) and some are chronic (there for a longer time or the life of the child). While we have no wish to exclude a child from school unnecessarily, we do have to consider if the child is well enough to attend school and secondly, if the infection is contagious (can be passed from person to person). Therefore, in order to ensure the health and safety of all pupils and staff, we would ask parents/ guardians to follow the guidelines below. All parents must be able to take a call from the school during the school day, be able to make arrangements to come and collect their child if they become unwell and also provide the office with an emergency contact that will come to collect their child during the school day if they are unable to do so. It is extremely important that the school Nurse is made aware of any infection your child may have, if they are on an antibiotic and if they have had any Calpol/Nurofen or symptom repressing medication before attending school as the Nurse needs to assess if they can have any pain medication at school and this allows for monitoring of infectious diseases, protection of persons who are particularly vulnerable and informing the local HSE office. Your child, in certain circumstances, may be required to provide a medical certificate/return to school cert.

Diarrhoea and/or vomiting

A child with diarrhoea (3 or more stools) and/or vomiting should not be sent to school and the school nurse should be notified of their condition.

If a child develops diarrhoea and/ or vomiting during the school day the parents/ guardians will be informed promptly as the child will need to be taken home. The nurse may advise an appointment with the GP to exclude an infection. Generally, the child can return to school 48 hours after the last episode of diarrhoea and/or vomiting if they are well enough to do so.

High Temperatures-Fever in Children

High temperatures are usually caused by minor illnesses but they can be a sign of infection. If you child has a high temperature, please do not send them to school. They can return to school if they are feeling well, displaying no additional new symptoms and if they have not had a high temperature for 48 hours.

Respiratory infections

It is recommended that parents/guardians consult their GP for advice on the period the child will be kept at home with respiratory infection as the absence will depend on the illness. It is always necessary to keep the child at home for a minimum of 24 hours after commencing antibiotic treatment. If your child has respiratory symptoms COVID 19 should be considered. Your child can go to school with a runny nose/and or sneezing as long as they have no other symptoms and are otherwise presenting as well.

Rashes, skin infection and other infectious diseases

Any child with an infectious disease or a spreading rash should not be sent to school until they have had clearance from their GP to do so. Some infectious diseases spread rapidly and can cause others to become ill very quickly if exposed to them.

Anaesthetic / Surgical / Dental Procedure

If your child has had an anaesthetic/surgical procedure, please observe him/her at home for at least 24 hours following discharge. He/she may still be sleepy from the anaesthetic or may be in pain from the procedure. Please contact your child's school nurse on the child's return to school.

Illness occurring in school

If a child becomes ill during school hours their parents/guardians will be contacted to take the child home, they may also be advised by nursing staff to make an appointment with their GP. If a parent /guardian/emergency contact is not available and is unreachable and the school nurse considers it necessary they will arrange for the child to be brought to the nearest Casualty Department. It must be stressed that the class nurse will only phone for a child to be collected if they are too unwell to remain in school.

Covid19

Covid 19 is spread in sneeze or cough droplets, and can be easily spread to other people. Therefore we would ask that if your child is displaying any new symptoms of the symptoms listed below that you do not send them to school

New Cough - this can be any kind of cough not just a dry cough

Fever usually $>38^{\circ}\text{C}$ (We are aware base line temperatures can differ and the class nurse and teacher will note this for reference)

New shortness of breath or breathing difficulties

Gastro intestinal upsets

Loss or change to sense of smell or taste

Covid 19

In the event that your child tests positive please follow recent HSE guidelines.

Following absence from the school due to ill health

All children must remain at home for a minimum of 24 hours after commencing antibiotic treatment and only return to school when they are well enough to do so.

Following absence from school due to hospital admission

After an admission to hospital we advise a minimum recovery period of 48 hours at home and to contact the school nursing team prior to your child's return to school.

Please contact the school nursing staff prior to the child's return to school. Nursing and teaching staff need information on the nature of the child's illness, any changes to medication and special precautions/restrictions, which may be required.

Medications for school

Medications must be sent to school in their original labelled containers with pharmacist's instructions clearly visible on the outside of the box or container. Please hand school bags containing medication directly to the bus escort and tell them that the bag contains medication.

Change of prescription

If there is a change to the child's medication, please notify the school nurse and send a soft copy by email or a hard copy in your child's school bag.

Epilepsy

Any child requiring rescue medication for a prolonged seizure should remain at home for 24 hours after dose is administered except for children with neurology team guidelines. The child may return to school once rescue medication can be administered from the start of the school day. A full handover must be communicated to the school nurse prior to attendance in school. A phone call with the school nurse communicating what seizure activity took place and what medication was administered should be discussed.

If you have a query about this information please contact, any of the school nursing team or the School Principal during school hours on 012950534.

This policy is subject to annual review by the Board of Management.


Chairperson of Board of Management


Principal

Ratified by the Board of Management on

07th October 2025 Date