

Sidestrand Hall School Residential Procedures for Care of Children Who are Unwell

If a child seems unwell

- Inform the parents/carers that the child needs to go home.
- Separate the child from the other children ideally in their bedroom. The child can remain in the same room, as long as interaction and sharing objects with other children does not occur. If they have vomiting, diarrhoea or suspected measles, the need for separation becomes particularly important.
- If the child has a fever with a body temperature above 37.5°C (A child's body temperature is usually between 36.5°C and 37.5°C). Fever can occasionally be a sign of a serious infection.
- Staff should contact parents. Seek advice from 111. The child will need to see their GP immediately or go to hospital.
- Remind a child who is coughing or sneezing to cough into their hands and then to wash and dry their hands thoroughly.
- If you touch a child who might be sick, avoid touching other children until after you have washed your hands.
- If a child vomits or has diarrhoea, ensure spills are cleaned up promptly. (Refer to Intimate Care Policy, Health and Safety Policy).
- Seizure/reaction to medication/severe allergic reaction - **seek medical advice immediately.**

Symptoms

Behaviour that is unusual for the individual child for example

- a child that is normally active and who suddenly becomes lethargic or drowsy
- a high temperature or fever
- loose bowels
- vomiting
- discharge from the eye or ear;
- skin that displays rashes, blisters, spots, crusty or weeping sores
- loss of appetite
- headaches
- stiff neck or other muscular and joint pain
- continuous scratching
- difficulty in swallowing or complaining of a sore throat
- persistent, prolonged or severe cough; or
- difficulty in breathing.

In all instances residential staff are to implement First Aid Procedures where necessary. (Refer to First Aid Policy).

REMEMBER residential staff are not qualified doctors and do not make diagnoses although they do know the children in their care. They need to be concerned about the well-being of the individual child as well as the spread of infections to other children in the residential provision.