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Rush Green Primary School



Attendance Policy

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1. Aims

Our school aims to meet its obligations with regards to school attendance by:

Promoting good attendance and reducing absence, including persistent absence Ensuring every pupil has access to full-time education to which they are entitled Acting early to address patterns of absence We will also support parents to:

fulfil their legal responsibility in ensuring their child attend schools regularly and punctually

ensure their child attends school in correct uniform and with the right equipment

ensure their child is picked up on time and to notify school immediately if exceptional circumstances necessitate a late collection

notify school as soon as possible regarding their child's absence and give prior notice of any hospital or dental appointments

notify school immediately of any changes to contact details especially changes of telephone numbers or collection details

1.2 The link between absence and attainment at Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4

Department for Education found **overall absence negatively effects attainment** at the end of Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 – every extra day missed is associated with a lower attainment outcome.

- Pupils with at least 95% attendance achieve 5 or more GCSEs at grades A*- C
- Only 10% of persistent absentees achieve 5 A* – C GCSEs compared to 58% of regular attenders
- 21% of persistent absentees had no qualifications compared to only 3% of regular attenders

In Rush Green Primary School, we have also seen the link between high absence and lower attainment. Children who are persistent absentees (as defined by the DfE as attending < 90% of school sessions) will fall behind by around a year in their literacy over the course of their time in our school

In our school we use a 'traffic light' system to assess the pupil's attendance. These thresholds are used to allocate rewards for good attendance and to help us decide on what strategies may be appropriate to implement when supporting parents to perform their legal duty to ensure regular school attendance.



Red – Attendance below 90%

Amber – Attendance between

Green – Attendance above 96%

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy meets the requirements of the [school attendance guidance](#) from the Department for Education (DfE), and refers to the DfE's statutory guidance on [school attendance parental responsibility measures](#). These documents are drawn from the following legislation setting out the legal powers and duties that govern school attendance:

- [The Education Act 1996](#)
- [The Education Act 2002](#)
- [The Education and Inspections Act 2006](#)
- [The Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2006](#)
- [The Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2010](#) • [The Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2011](#)
- [The Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013](#)
- [The Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2016](#)
- [The Education \(Penalty Notices\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013](#)
- [The Children Act 2004](#)

This policy also refers to the DfE's guidance on the [school census](#), which explains the persistent absence threshold.

Ensuring your child's regular attendance at school is a parent/carer's legal responsibility (Section 444 of the 1996 Education Act) and permitting absence from school that is not authorised by the school creates an offence in law.

3. School procedures

3.1 Attendance register

By law, all schools (except those where all pupils are boarders) are required to keep an attendance register, and all pupils must be placed on this register.

The attendance register will be taken at the start of the first session of each school day and once during the second session. It will mark whether every pupil is:

- Present
- Attending an approved off-site educational activity
- Absent
- Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances
- Any amendment to the attendance register will include:
 - The original entry
 - The amended entry
 - The reason for the amendment
 - The date on which the amendment was made
 - The name and position of the person who made the amendment

All entries will be in line with the DfE Attendance codes (see appendix 1).

Every entry in the attendance register will be preserved for at least 3 years after the date on which the entry was made.

The register for the first session will be taken when the school day begins (as shown in the table below). After 10:00am, any unauthorised late will be recorded as an unauthorised absence (U code) in line with government guidelines.

	School Day Begins	Class Register closes
ISP	8:45	8:55
Nursery am	8:30	8:45
Nursery pm	12:30	12:45

Reception –	8:40	8.50
Years 1 and 2	8:35	8:45
Years 3- 6	8:45 <i>doors open at 8:35</i>	8:55

3.2 Unplanned absence

Parents must notify the school on each day that their child is absent for any unplanned absence. For example, if their child is unable to attend due to ill health. Calls should be made by 9:30am, or as soon as practically possible (see also section 6).

Parents should call the absence line and leave a clear voicemail. The telephone number for this is

ABSENCE LINE = 0208 724 8539.

Alternatively, parents can email the school via the dedicated email address for reporting absence:

ABSENCE EMAIL = Pupil67.301@bdcs.org.uk

The school may ask parents to provide medical evidence, such as a doctor's note, prescription, appointment card or other appropriate form of evidence. In all cases, the school will need to be notified of any absences. Failure to provide sufficient reason may result in an absence being recorded as unauthorised.

If a child has an ongoing health concern, the school may request permission to seek a medical update from an appropriate healthcare professional via a GP consent form which will be signed by the parent.

Absence procedure:

When an absence is not reported, then the attendance team will call the parent/guardian to ascertain the cause of absence.

- **The Safeguarding Team will call absent children (not recorded as vulnerable) where a reason for absence has not been provided**

- The PSA will call children on the vulnerable pupil list
- Children on the school vulnerable pupil list will be called first. All calls to vulnerable pupils must be made before 10.30am
- For safeguarding reasons voice calls should be made rather than texts for vulnerable pupils
- Any home visits must be agreed by a member of the safeguarding team to ensure personal safety. Visits should be carried out as per school policy
- After registers are closed the Office Admin Team will carry out a sweep to double check absence pupils and email names to the Safeguarding Team (includes the PSA)

Where voice contact cannot be made, messages will be left where possible for parents/guardians to contact the School Office.

Where there is a cause for concern for example, the School is unable to make any contact with parent/s of a vulnerable child, then a home visit may be made (see above) and/or the Local Authority Attendance Officer and/or Social Services will be called to ensure safeguarding.

In cases, where we are unable to contact parents when a child is absent, we may have to work closely with the police to establish the whereabouts of the family. Our school will keep the child/ren on roll until advised to remove them by the LA.

3.3 Medical or dental appointments

Missing registration for a medical or dental appointment will be counted as an authorised absence where advance notice is given and proof of the appointment is provided.

However, we encourage parents to make medical and dental appointments out of school hours where possible. Where this is not possible, the pupil should be out of school for the minimum amount of time necessary.

Applications for other types of absence in term time must also be made in advance. Information relating to whether the school can authorise such absences can be found in section 4.

3.4 Lateness and punctuality

LATE DOOR PROCEDURES

Children entering the school late must enter through the late door and NOT the doors which other classes/year groups are using.

The late door is now situated opposite the School Dining Hall in the old Junior Office.

The staggered start to the school day means that some children start school at different times of the day. Teachers in each year group are responsible for making sure that the

outside doors are closed behind them and that children from other year groups do not slip through.

The late door is supervised by the PSA who will give the child a 'Late' card, record the name and class of the child, time of entry and the reason for lateness. This is so that the school is able to track punctuality patterns.

Parents will be expected to sign children in and give a reason for absence. Staff must always be mindful that in almost all cases, lateness will not be the child's fault.

Staff will sign next to the child's name so that we can track any patterns.

Phone calls will be made to parents of children in Year 5 and 6 that make their own way to school and are late. This also applies to children in other year groups that appear at the door without parents accompanying them.

The PSA will ensure that all children coming through the late door are registered using the LATE RECORDING FOLDER AND LATE CARDS ARE GIVEN.

Teachers will need to challenge children if they appear without a late card and the PSA may need to follow this up with parents if they have encouraged children to use an entrance other than the late door.

Children appearing in class without a late card should be recorded.

From 9:05 onwards, staff will check classes for unrecorded children and ensure that registers are updated. It is the teacher's responsibility to ensure that the pupil information is passed on.

The Late Door closes at 9:15am

Lates after this time will use the Main Office where they will be registered and given a Late Card.

From 9.15am onwards the Late Folder will be returned to the front office and the PSA will start making calls to the parents of vulnerable children

Class Teachers must ensure that pupils arriving late have a late card, so that they are recorded as being in the building, otherwise it would not be inconceivable for pupils to sit in assembly or for almost a full first lesson without staff knowing

A pupil who arrives late but before the register has closed will be marked as late, using the appropriate code.

A pupil who arrives after the register has closed will be marked as absent, using the appropriate code.

Where a pattern of poor punctuality is established, the school will notify parents of their concerns via a letter. If the punctuality issues continue, then parents will be asked to attend a meeting with the relevant school staff.

Pupils who are consistently late are disrupting not only their own education but also that of the other pupils. Ongoing and repeated lateness is considered as unauthorised absence and will be subject to legal action.

3.5 Following up absence

The school will follow up any absences to ascertain the reason, ensure proper safeguarding action is taken where necessary, identify whether the absence is approved or not and identify the correct attendance code to use.

School systems are in place to ensure that absences are followed up in a timely manner, to ensure that the appropriate next steps are taken and to establish the reason for absence (see Appendix 2 – Absence Protocol Flowchart).

Where a child is absent and the school is yet to be informed, '*First-day calling*' procedures will be put in place. This may include:

- Text message to parents to ascertain reasons for absence
- Telephone call from the PSA
- Home Visits
- Letter home
- **If no response received within 10 days, then the absence will be recorded as unauthorised**

Whilst Rush Green Primary School considers all pupils with low attendance as vulnerable, the Designated Safeguarding Leader (DSL) may prioritise the most vulnerable children as a safeguarding concern and will carry out a home visit on the first day of absence if the safety of the child cannot be established.

3.6 Reporting to parents

Parents will be informed of their child's attendance in the termly parents' meetings and within the end of year report. However, where there are concerns about a pupil's attendance, the PSA will contact parents via a letter, telephone call or school-based meeting.

Where attendance concerns are not resolved, or if there is no noticeable improvement, the school may refer the case to LBBB Education Prosecutions.

4. Authorised and unauthorised absence

4.1 Granting approval for term-time absence

Headteachers or designated persons may not grant any leave of absence to pupils during term time unless they consider there to be 'exceptional circumstances'.

Exceptional circumstances may include educational visits, approved sporting activities or circumstances such as a family bereavement.

The school considers each application for term-time absence individually, taking into account the specific facts, circumstances and relevant context behind the request. A leave of absence is granted entirely at the headteacher's discretion.

4.2 Leave of absence

Leave of absence during term-time and holiday requests will be discouraged and families reminded of the impact that absence from school has upon pupils' attainment and progress. Should a parent or carer wish to apply for a leave of absence, then a form from the school office or downloaded from the school's website should be completed. In order to validate the reasons for absence, or to verify the length of the leave, the school may request to see evidence which may include flight tickets, booking confirmation

All requests for a leave of absence will be forwarded to the school's governing body, who will make a decision as to whether the leave of absence can be granted.

In deciding whether to grant the leave of absence, the following factors will be taken into account:

- Children with attendance of 90% or less will never be authorised
- The child's historic attendance levels – above 95% will be considered (in exceptional circumstances, children with prior attendance levels of <95% may be considered)
- Discussions with the class teacher
- The circumstances behind the leave of absence
- Whether the parents are restricted in terms of leave by their own employer
- No leave of absence will be granted during the period leading up to and including the week/s of statutory testing

When leave of absence is agreed, a maximum of 5 days will be approved. Following this, the absence will be unauthorised.

Unauthorised absences that have been taken without seeking prior approval, or when approval has not been given, may result in a penalty notice being issued in accordance with the [London Borough of Barking and Dagenham Penalty Notice Code of Conduct](#) which states:

'If a school does not authorise a leave of absence for the purpose of a holiday but the parents still take the child out of school, or the child is kept away for longer than was agreed, the absence is unauthorised. The regulations do not allow schools to give retrospective approval. If the parents did not apply for leave of absence in advance, the absence must be recorded as unauthorised.'

4.3 Reasons for authorised absence

Valid reasons for **authorised absence** include:

- Illness and medical/dental appointments – as explained in sections 3.2 and 3.3
- Religious observance – where the day is exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body to which the pupil's parents belong. If necessary, the school will seek advice from the parents' religious body to confirm whether the day is set apart
- Traveller pupils travelling for occupational purposes – this covers Roma, English and Welsh Gypsies, Irish and Scottish Travellers, Showmen (fairground people) and Circus people, Bargees (occupational boat dwellers) and New Travellers. Absence of a child from a Traveller family that has left the area may be authorised if the absence is for work purposes only and it is believed that the family intends to return. To ensure the continuity of learning for Traveller children, dual registration is allowed. That means that a school cannot remove a Traveller child from the school roll while they are travelling. When the Traveller is away, the home school holds the place open and records the absence as authorised through the T code. Distance learning packs for Traveller children are not an alternative to attendance at school.

4.4 Reasons for unauthorised absence

Unauthorised absences are mornings or afternoons away from school without good reason and for which no leave of absence has been approved. Examples include:

- Staying at home because a parent is sick or cannot take the child to school
- Birthday treats
- Shopping
- Hair cuts
- Waiting for deliveries or maintenance companies
- Head lice (see Appendix 3)

4.5 Legal sanctions

Schools can fine parents for the unauthorised absence of their child from school, where the child is of compulsory school age.

If issued with a penalty notice, parents must pay £60 within 21 days or £120 within 28 days. The payment must be made directly to the local authority.

The decision on whether or not to issue a penalty notice ultimately rests with the headteacher, following the local authority's code of conduct for issuing penalty notices. This may take into account:

- A number of unauthorised absences occurring within a rolling academic year
- One-off instances of irregular attendance, such as holidays taken in term time without permission
- Where an excluded pupil is found in a public place during school hours without a justifiable reason

If the payment has not been made after 28 days, the local authority can decide whether to prosecute the parent under Section 444(i) of the Education Act as a strict liability offence or to withdraw the notice. In consultation with LBBB Education Prosecutions, the school may also refer cases to magistrates' court under both Section 444(i) and Section 444(1a) of the Education Act. The latter is the aggravated version of the offence which could result in a fine, a community order or up to 3 months' imprisonment.

Consideration will also be given to seeking an Education Supervision Order and referring the matter to the Family Court.

5. Strategies for promoting attendance

Rush Green Primary School expects that children on roll will attend every day, as long as they are fit and healthy enough to do so. We do all that we can to encourage the children to attend and to support families in ensuring that this happens. We believe that the most important factor in promoting good attendance is the development of positive attitudes towards school. To this end, we strive to make school a happy and rewarding experience for all children. We recognise and reward children who attend school regularly, or make good progress in improving their attendance in a number of ways, such as:

- Termly rewards for good or improved attendance (pencils, certificates, badges etc.)
- End of year rewards (such as a bouncy castle experience)
- Certificates
- Traffic light system
- Inform and remind parents of the benefits of good levels of attendance
- Communicating with parents regularly on their child's attendance
- Informing and meeting parents when there is a decline in their child's attendance to establish what means of support can be given

6. Attendance monitoring

The attendance team monitors pupil absence on a fortnightly basis.

Parents are expected to call the school in the morning if their child is going to be absent due to ill health (see section 3.2).

During fortnightly attendance profiling meetings, the attendance team will consider a number of factors to 'RAG' rate the pupils' attendance. Where there are concerns over the patterns of absence seen, or if a child's attendance has fallen below the target of 96%, the parents may be contacted by the school's PSA. This contact may be via a letter, telephone call or an invitation to attend a school-based meeting. Regular updates on attendance will be given by the PSA to parents of children whose attendance is being monitored.

If, after contacting parents, a pupil's absence continue to rise, or if parents are not engaging with the school, we will consider referring to the LBBB Education Prosecutions.

The persistent absence threshold is 10%. If a pupil's individual overall absence rate is greater than or equal to 10%, the pupil will be classified as a persistent absentee.

Pupil-level absence data is collected each term and published at national and local authority level through the DfE's school absence national statistics releases. The underlying school-level absence data is published alongside the national statistics. We compare our attendance data to the national average, and share this with governors.

7. Dual-Roll and Long-Term Absence

There may be occasions when a pupil at Rush Green Primary School is absent from school for a long period of time, or may be dual-registered in another educational establishment. In these circumstances, the school will:

- Monitor the attendance regularly to ensure regular attendance and safeguarding requirements are met
- Consider sending additional work home to lessen the impact upon the child's education
- Liaise with other professionals, such as the Hospital Home Tuition service and Hospital Schools etc.

8. Roles and responsibilities:

Who	Responsibility
Parents and Carers	<p>Parents will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inform the school on the first day of absence and on each day thereafter• Discuss with the tutor/class teacher any planned absences well in advance• Support the school with their child in aiming for 100% attendance each year• Make sure that any absence is clearly accounted for by telephone or text on the first and subsequent days of absence, or by letter if a phone is unavailable• Avoid taking their child out of school for non-urgent medical or dental appointments• Only request leave of absence if it is for an exceptional circumstance.
The Governing Body	<p>The governing body is responsible for monitoring attendance figures for the whole school on at least a termly basis. It also holds the headteacher to account for the implementation of this policy.</p> <p>Attendance figures are included as a standing agenda item in Full Governing Body meetings and in Teaching and Standards Committee meetings.</p>
The Headteacher and Leadership Team	<p>The headteacher and designated deputy are responsible for ensuring this policy is implemented consistently across the school, and for monitoring school-level absence data and reporting it to governors.</p> <p>They also support other staff in monitoring the attendance of individual pupils and issues fixed-penalty notices, where necessary</p>

<p>The Parent Support Adviser (PSA) and Attendance Team</p>	<p>The PSA (as part of the attendance team):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitors attendance data at the whole school level and individual pupil level – investigates and works towards resolving patterns of lateness and absence • Supervises and tracks pupil lateness and is responsible for ensuring all late children are recorded. To action when this is not the case • Reports concerns about attendance to the headteacher • Works with the LA and other agencies to tackle persistent absence • Arranges calls and meetings with parents to discuss attendance issues • Carries out home visits • Calls vulnerable pupils with unreported absences • Supports parents and children who may be finding it difficult to attend regularly and punctually • Ensures good communications and strategies to provide early intervention to ensure that parents fulfil their legal responsibilities – this includes working in an advisory role, as a PSA. This may involve coffee mornings and meetings to secure early attendance habits with EYFS for example • Regularly monitor the attendance of any children who are dual-registered
<p>Class Teachers</p>	<p>Class teachers are responsible for recording attendance on a daily basis and submitting this information to the school office.</p> <p>Teachers will use the online register (Integris) using only the following codes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • / Present (am) • \ Present (pm) • L Late arrival • N Reason not provided <p>All teachers will complete the register at the beginning of every session and ensure that it has been saved correctly and is accurate.</p> <p>Parents giving reasons for absence will be directed to the PSA or school office</p>

Office staff	<p>Office staff are expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to messages left on the absence line and read emails from parents reporting their child's absence and record on the electronic register • Receive notification in advance of medical appointments etc. • Check whether children marked as absent are in school or not • Forwards a list of absentees to the PSA
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9. School Leavers and Children Missing Education (CME)

If your child is to leave school (other than transferring at the end of the Year 6), parents/carers are asked to give the school office full and comprehensive information about their plans to leave. Information should include:

- Date of move
- New address
- Telephone numbers
- The new school for the child, or, the parent's/carer's intentions to ensure they are in receipt of effective education in regard their age, ability and aptitude
- The last day of attendance at Rush Green Primary School

This information should be submitted to the school in writing and signed by the parent/carer.

Until Rush Green Primary School receives confirmation that the child has begun attending their new school, normal attendance procedures are followed and the child will remain on the roll of Rush Green Primary School. In these circumstances all absences will be reported as unauthorised.

If a student leaves and we do not have the above information, then your child will be considered to be a 'Child Missing Education'. This requires the school and Local Authority to investigate their whereabouts and reason for non-attendance. This may involve the Police, Children's Social Care and other agencies as appropriate and required. By parent's/carer's providing this information, these investigations can be avoided.

10. Absence through competing at regional, county or national level for sport

Parents/carers of able sports persons can seek leave of absence from school for their child to take part in regional, county, national or international events and competitions. It is however the discretion of the Head Teacher whether to authorise this. They will need to discuss with the parents/carers the nature and frequency of the absence and how the child's learning will be upheld if absent from school. Permission to leave early or arrive late to

attend training sessions will also be the discretion of the Head Teacher. NB. It is not likely to be approved if it is a regular event, unless the sports club or association are providing an education tutor as part of their coaching.

11. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed every four years by the strategic lead for attendance. At every review, the policy will be shared with the governing body.

12. Links with other policies

This policy is linked to our child protection and safeguarding policy

13. MISSING PUPIL PROTOCOL

- 1. In the case of a missing pupil (the pupil has not been recorded as being present in the school but the parent/guardian tells us that the child left home as normal) then the following steps must be taken:**
- 2. Check to see if the class teacher has seen the child and the child is in class/assembly.**
- 3. If the child is in class/assembly, then inform a member of the SLT and telephone the parent to advise them that the child has been found and review register procedures to investigate.**
- 4. If the child is not in class and has not been seen then inform the Head Teacher or acting Head Teacher, who, with SLT will carry out a rapid school search.**

- 5. If the child is still not found, (and in any case, after 30 minutes), the Police must be called to inform them that there is a missing child - giving them all the information that is required (including any relevant medical information or special need).**

- 6. Telephone the parent after the call to the Police.**

- 7. Print 5 x copies of the child's photo (from School records for Police use).**

- 8. Carry out a local search with available staff and work with the Police as required.**

Appendix 1: Attendance codes

The following codes are taken from the DfE's guidance on school attendance.

Code	Definition	Scenario
/	Present (am)	Pupil is present at morning registration
\	Present (pm)	Pupil is present at afternoon registration
L	Late arrival	Pupil arrives late before register has closed
B	Off-site educational activity	Pupil is at a supervised off-site educational activity approved by the school
D	Dual registered	Pupil is attending a session at another setting where they are also registered
J	Interview	Pupil has an interview with a prospective employer/educational establishment
P	Sporting activity	Pupil is participating in a supervised sporting activity approved by the school
V	Educational trip or visit	Pupil is on an educational visit/trip organised, or approved, by the school
W	Work experience	Pupil is on a work experience placement

Code	Definition	Scenario

Authorised absence		
C	Authorised leave of absence	Pupil has been granted a leave of absence due to exceptional circumstances
E	Excluded	Pupil has been excluded but no alternative provision has been made
H	Authorised holiday	Pupil has been allowed to go on holiday due to exceptional circumstances
I	Illness	School has been notified that a pupil will be absent due to illness
M	Medical/dental appointment	Pupil is at a medical or dental appointment
R	Religious observance	Pupil is taking part in a day of religious observance
S	Study leave	Year 11 pupil is on study leave during their public examinations
T	Gypsy, Roma and Traveller absence	Pupil from a Traveller community is travelling, as agreed with the school
Unauthorised absence		
G	Unauthorised holiday	Pupil is on a holiday that was not approved by the school

N	Reason not provided	Pupil is absent for an unknown reason (this code should be amended when the reason emerges, or replaced with code O if no reason for absence has been provided after a reasonable amount of time)
O	Unauthorised absence	School is not satisfied with reason for pupil's absence
U	Arrival after registration	Pupil arrived at school after the register closed

Code	Definition	Scenario
X	Not required to be in school	Pupil of non-compulsory school age is not required to attend
Y	Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances	School site is closed, there is disruption to travel as a result of a local/national emergency, or pupil is in custody
Z	Pupil not on admission register	Register set up but pupil has not yet joined the school
#	Planned school closure	Whole or partial school closure due to half-term/bank holiday/INSET day

Appendix 2: Headlice / Nits

The following policy advises parents on the school's policy regarding whether absence due to head lice will be authorised or not.

Concerned About Headlice or Nits?

From time-to-time, children may pick up head lice. This is not related to dirty hair, but through contact with other people's hair or clothing. The lice may make your child's scalp feel itchy, or as though there are things moving in their hair.



The only way to be sure someone has head lice is by finding live lice. You can do this by combing their hair with a special fine-toothed comb (detection comb). You can buy these online or at pharmacies.

There is no need to see a GP.

What parents should do if they discover headlice

When a parent or carer discovers that their child has headlice, they should treat the infestation immediately. Usually this will involve 'wet-combing'; combing the hair when wet with a special fine-toothed comb, or using a medicated lotion or spray.

The child should still attend school following this treatment. If headlice are discovered in the morning, we would still expect to see the child in school once the treatment has been carried out.

What will the school do?

If a member of staff observes a child with headlice, we will call the parents at the end of the day. In some cases, we may call home sooner - the parent may wish to collect their child in order to treat the infestation or to make their child feel more comfortable.

We will signpost parents to the latest NHS guidance, which can be found at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/headliceand-nits/>

The school will expect the child to attend school the following day - government guidance states that there is no need for children to be absent from school. As a result, any absence due to headlice will be unauthorised.

If the problem persists, or in the case of a severe infestation, the school may ask for parental consent to seek advice and guidance from the school's nursing team.

The school will no longer send out 'mass alerts' when there is an outbreak of headlice. There are a few reasons for this. Most schools and nurseries are likely to have a few children with headlice at any one time. On that basis, 'alert' letters could potentially be required every day. 'Alert' letters also frequently lead parents to attempt to treat their children preventatively, which is neither effective nor advised. Headlice infection cannot be prevented, and over-use of insecticide treatments may lead to resistance. We will, though, provide helpful information for parents about the detection and treatment of headlice infection on a regular basis, for example at the start of a new term.

Appendix 3: Absence Advice

Parents often ask whether their child should attend school when they have been sick or how long to keep their child absent from school. We use government guidance published by [Public Health England](#) to ascertain whether a child needs to be absent and to decide when a child can return to school. The school may refer to this when deciding if an absence can be authorised or not.

Rashes and skin infections	Recommended period to be kept away from school, nursery or childminders	Comments
Athlete's foot	None	Athlete's foot is not a serious condition. Treatment is recommended
Chickenpox*	Until all vesicles have crusted over	See: Vulnerable children and female staff – pregnancy
Cold sores, (Herpes simplex)	None	Avoid kissing and contact with the sores. Cold sores are generally mild and self-limiting
German measles (rubella)*	Four days from onset of rash (as per "Green Book")	Preventable by immunisation (MMR x 2 doses). See: Female staff – pregnancy
Hand, foot and mouth	None	Contact the Duty Room if a large number of children are affected. Exclusion may be considered in some circumstances
Impetigo	Until lesions are crusted and healed, or 48 hours after commencing antibiotic treatment	Antibiotic treatment speeds healing and reduces the infectious period
Measles*	Four days from onset of rash	Preventable by vaccination (MMR x 2). See: Vulnerable children and female staff – pregnancy
Molluscum contagiosum	None	A self-limiting condition
Ringworm	Exclusion not usually required	Treatment is required
Roseola (Infantum)	None	None
Scabies	Child can return after first treatment	Household and close contacts require treatment
Scarlet fever*	Child can return 24 hours after commencing appropriate antibiotic treatment	Antibiotic treatment recommended for the affected child. If more than one child has scarlet fever contact PHA Duty Room for further advice
Slapped cheek (fifth disease or parvovirus B19)	None once rash has developed	See: Vulnerable children and female staff – pregnancy
Shingles	Exclude only if rash is weeping and cannot be covered	Can cause chickenpox in those who are not immune i.e. have not had chickenpox. It is spread by very close contact and touch. If further information is required, contact the Duty Room. SEE: Vulnerable Children and Female Staff – Pregnancy
Warts and verrucae	None	Verrucae should be covered in swimming pools, gymnasiums and changing rooms

Diarrhoea and vomiting illness	Recommended period to be kept away from school, nursery or childminders	Comments
Diarrhoea and/or vomiting	24 hours from last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting.	
<i>E. coli</i> O157 VTEC*	Should be excluded for 48 hours from the last episode of diarrhoea	Further exclusion is required for young children under five and those who have difficulty in adhering to hygiene practices
Typhoid* [and paratyphoid*] (enteric fever)	Further exclusion may be required for some children until they are no longer excreting	Children in these categories should be excluded until there is evidence of microbiological clearance. This guidance may also apply to some contacts of cases who may require microbiological clearance
Shigella* (dysentery)		Please consult the Duty Room for further advice
Cryptosporidiosis*	Exclude for 48 hours from the last episode of diarrhoea	Exclusion from swimming is advisable for two weeks after the diarrhoea has settled

Respiratory infections	Recommended period to be kept away from school, nursery or childminders	Comments
Flu (influenza)	Until recovered	See: Vulnerable children
Tuberculosis*	Always consult the Duty Room	Requires prolonged close contact for spread
Whooping cough* (pertussis)	48 hours from commencing antibiotic treatment, or 21 days from onset of illness if no antibiotic treatment	Preventable by vaccination. After treatment, non-infectious coughing may continue for many weeks. The Duty Room will organise any contact tracing necessary

Other infections	Recommended period to be kept away from school, nursery or childminders	Comments
Conjunctivitis	None	If an outbreak/cluster occurs, consult the Duty Room
Diphtheria *	Exclusion is essential. Always consult with the Duty Room	Family contacts must be excluded until cleared to return by the Duty Room. Preventable by vaccination. The Duty Room will organise any contact tracing necessary
Glandular fever	None	
Head lice	None	Treatment is recommended only in cases where live lice have been seen
Hepatitis A*	Exclude until seven days after onset of jaundice (or seven days after symptom onset if no jaundice)	The duty room will advise on any vaccination or other control measure that are needed for close contacts of a single case of hepatitis A and for suspected outbreaks.
Hepatitis B*, C, HIV/AIDS	None	Hepatitis B and C and HIV are bloodborne viruses that are not infectious through casual contact. For cleaning of body fluid spills. SEE: Good Hygiene Practice
Meningococcal meningitis*/septicaemia*	Until recovered	Some forms of meningococcal disease are preventable by vaccination (see immunisation schedule). There is no reason to exclude siblings or other close contacts of a case. In case of an outbreak, it may be necessary to provide antibiotics with or without meningococcal vaccination to close contacts. The Duty Room will advise on any action needed.
Meningitis* due to other bacteria	Until recovered	Hib and pneumococcal meningitis are preventable by vaccination. There is no reason to exclude siblings or other close contacts of a case. The Duty Room will give advice on any action needed
Meningitis viral*	None	Milder illness. There is no reason to exclude siblings and other close contacts of a case. Contact tracing is not required
MRSA	None	Good hygiene, in particular handwashing and environmental cleaning, are important to minimise any danger of spread. If further information is required, contact the Duty Room
Mumps*	Exclude child for five days after onset of swelling	Preventable by vaccination (MMR x 2 doses)
Threadworms	None	Treatment is recommended for the child and household contacts
Tonsillitis	None	There are many causes, but most cases are due to viruses and do not need an antibiotic

* denotes a notifiable disease. It is a statutory requirement that doctors report a notifiable disease to the Director of Public Health via the Duty Room.

