



Early Years Illness Policy and Procedure

It is our intention in Early Years to protect the health and wellbeing of all children and staff at The British School of Tenerife by asking any child or member of staff who is ill or infectious to remain at home until they are well enough to return.

We will not exclude children unnecessarily, as we understand the needs of working parents. It is at the Early Years Lead's discretion whether to allow a child to remain in school if they are showing signs of illness, even if there is no official exclusion period, if this period has passed, or if a doctor has stated that they are not infectious. The Early Years Lead will take into account the child's demeanour and whether they are well enough to participate in school activities.

If a Child Becomes Unwell at School

We aim to make children as comfortable as possible until their parents or an authorised adult can collect them. We strongly believe that if a child is unwell, there is no place better for them than at home.

Procedure

- In a kind and caring manner, the condition of the child should be assessed.
- A member of staff should collect the thermometer from the first aid box located in the Nursery bathroom and take the child's temperature.
- The Early Years Lead should be informed of any sick children and will assess the child.
- If the child is unwell, the parents or emergency contacts will be contacted to collect them.
- The child will be comforted or allowed to lie down on a bed inside the classroom, away from other children.
- If a child becomes seriously ill and requires medical attention before parents can collect them, the child will be taken to the Medical Centre accompanied by two members of staff.

Hospital Quirónsalud Vida.

Calle Magnolias, 2
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Tel: 922 33 05 50

If a Child Has Sickness or Diarrhoea at School

Children will always be treated with respect and made to feel as comfortable as possible.

Procedure

- The child should be taken to the nearest bathroom. If possible, all other children should be moved away from the area quickly.
- A member of staff must remain with the child at all times.
- Another member of staff should clean and disinfect the affected area appropriately.
- Once the child is comfortable, they should be washed and changed as necessary. (**Refer to the Cleaning and Washing Children Procedure.**)
- The **Early Years Lead** should be informed.
- Parents or emergency contacts should be contacted to collect the child.
- The child should be comforted or allowed to rest on a bed inside the classroom, away from other children.

- If the child becomes seriously ill and requires medical attention before parents can collect them, the child will be taken to the Medical Centre accompanied by two members of staff.

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Children should remain at home for 48 hours after the last episode of sickness or diarrhoea.

If a Child Has a Fever at School

If a child shows a change in their behaviour or appears unwell, staff should respond promptly and sensitively.

Procedure

- Take the child's temperature using the thermometer located in the first aid box in the Nursery bathroom.
- If the child has a temperature, keep them as comfortable as possible and inform the Early Years Lead.
- Parents or emergency contacts should be contacted to collect the child.
- The child should be comforted by their Key Worker or allowed to lie down on a bed inside the classroom, away from other children.
- Encourage the child to drink water to prevent dehydration.
- Monitor the child regularly and check their temperature every 10 minutes until parents arrive, as staff are not permitted to administer medication.
- If the child's temperature rises quickly or they appear to deteriorate, they should be taken to the Medical Centre accompanied by two members of staff.

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Children should remain at home for at least 24 hours after their fever has subsided without the use of medication.

If a Child Has an Asthma Attack

Staff should deal with the situation in a calm and reassuring manner.

Procedure

- If a child appears to be having difficulty breathing, a staff member must remain with the child at all times, and another member of staff should immediately call the Early Years Lead or the Early Years First Aider.
- An ambulance must be called if the child appears to be in distress or is struggling to breathe.
- If the child has an inhaler on the premises, it should be administered according to the medical form previously signed by parents. (Refer to the Medicine Policy.)
- Parents or emergency contacts should be contacted immediately.
- If the child requires an ambulance, a member of staff must accompany the child in the ambulance.
- If the child needs to go to the Medical Centre, they must be accompanied by two members of staff.

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Parent Responsibilities

It is the parents' responsibility to:

- Adhere to the exclusion requirements for each illness.
- Inform the school if their child has been unwell.
- Inform the school if their child has been diagnosed with an illness.
- Keep their child at home for at least **24 hours after the first dose of antibiotics** has been given.
- Ensure that if a child is sent home with a fever, they remain at home for **at least 24 hours after the last symptoms** have disappeared.

Policy Review:

This policy will be reviewed every, or more frequently if required by changes in legislation, guidance, or school operational needs.

Written by:	Jenni Garnett		
Agreed Date:	October 2025		
Board of Governors			
	Print Name:	Signed:	Date:
Academic Director:			
	Print Name:	Signed:	Date:
Review Date:	October 2027		

Early Years- Minimal Exclusion Periods for Illnesses

Illness / Condition	Exclusion / Guidance
Diarrhoea	Return 24 hrs after symptoms resolve (unless caused by Salmonella, Shigella, or E. coli).
Vomiting	Exclude if vomiting ≥2 times in 24 hrs . Return 24 hrs after last episode.
Persistent Abdominal Pain	Exclude if pain lasts >2 hrs or occurs with fever/other symptoms.
Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye)	Exclude for bacterial conjunctivitis . Return 24 hrs after treatment starts. Allergic/viral forms do not require exclusion.
Hepatitis A	Exclude until 1 week after onset or after immune globulin as advised by local health authorities.
Impetigo	Exclude until 24 hrs after treatment begins.
Measles	Exclude until 5 days after rash disappears or cleared by local health authorities.
Mouth Sores	Exclude if sores cause drooling or prevent participation.
Mumps	Exclude until 5 days after parotid swelling begins.
Pediculosis (Head Lice)	Follow the school's Head Lice Policy .
Pertussis (Whooping Cough)	Exclude until 5 days of antibiotics completed or cleared by local health authorities.
Rash with fever/behaviour change	Exclude until medically cleared.
Scabies	Exclude until treatment has begun .
Strep Throat (Streptococcal Pharyngitis)	Exclude until 24 hrs after treatment begins and child can participate.
Tuberculosis (TB)	Exclude until cleared by physician or local health authorities.
Chickenpox (Varicella-Zoster)	Exclude until all lesions have dried and formed scabs (usually 6 days).
Hand, Foot & Mouth Disease	Exclude until child is well enough to participate. Symptoms resolve in 7–10 days .
Threadworms	No exclusion , but prompt treatment for child and household is essential; school should be informed.
Ringworm	Exclude until treatment has begun .
Slap Cheek / Fifth Disease	Exclude until fully recovered. Important for pregnant staff/parents.
Scarlet Fever	Exclude until fully recovered.
Tonsillitis	Exclude until fully recovered and treatment completed.
Meningitis	Exclude until cleared by a doctor.
Croup	Exclude for at least 3 days ; may need longer if symptoms persist.

