



Important information regarding school absence

Dear Parent/Carer

As the weather turns more autumnal and the evenings grow darker, we often find that germs will soon be circulating. I would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents/carers and students, that we still expect attendance to school for any of the following ailments:

- Coughs
- Colds
- Headache
- Tummy
- ache/period pains
- Tiredness
- Sore throat

If a student is experiencing just one of these symptoms then we would expect them to still attend school - we unfortunately would not be able to authorise absence based on these symptoms alone.

However, if these are accompanied by other symptoms, such as a raised temperature, shivers or drowsiness, then your child should stay at home and you should consult medical advice. Most ailments are easily medicated at home before the school day starts but if symptoms persist, it would be sensible to stay at home. In many cases students do feel better as the day moves on and are actually distracted from it, by being in school with their friends. If we have a signed consent form from you, we can offer your child pain relief from 12.30pm, or earlier if we call you, if they should need this to ease minor conditions.

At secondary school, we are trying to build on their resilience and think ahead to adulthood, where they would rarely take a working day off for just a cold, cough or headache. Please support us in sending them in to school, in the knowledge that if they feel worse, we will of course ring you and send them home. We do have a first aid room within the school where students can come if they are feeling unwell. If your child is assessed by our First Aiders as being too unwell to stay at school, you will be contacted.

Vomiting and Diarrhoea

we would not expect students to attend school whilst suffering from these symptoms. They may return as soon as they feel better and are able to eat and drink again. As they are older now and hopefully have better levels of hygiene, we do not expect you to have to follow a 48-hour rule. Sometimes sickness may be caused by over exertion or eating too many sweet foods, in this instance students are welcome back in to school the next day if they feel well.

To clarify, if your child is absent due to a minor cough, cold, sore throat or a headache without other symptoms (for example, a fever), the school will record the absence as unauthorised.

Reporting absence

From now onwards we will be using two main methods of reporting student absence. Our preferred method is the Studybugs app - if you have not done so already please sign up here - <https://studybugs.com/about/parents>

Even if your child's attendance is excellent we would ask that you still sign up to this service - it is free, easy to use and secure. You may also telephone the main school number on 01903 601361 and select option 2 for our absence voicemail inbox. No other method of communicating your child's absence will be recorded and could lead to the school calling you as we believe your child is missing.

Thank you for supporting us in this matter.

Bohunt School Worthing

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