

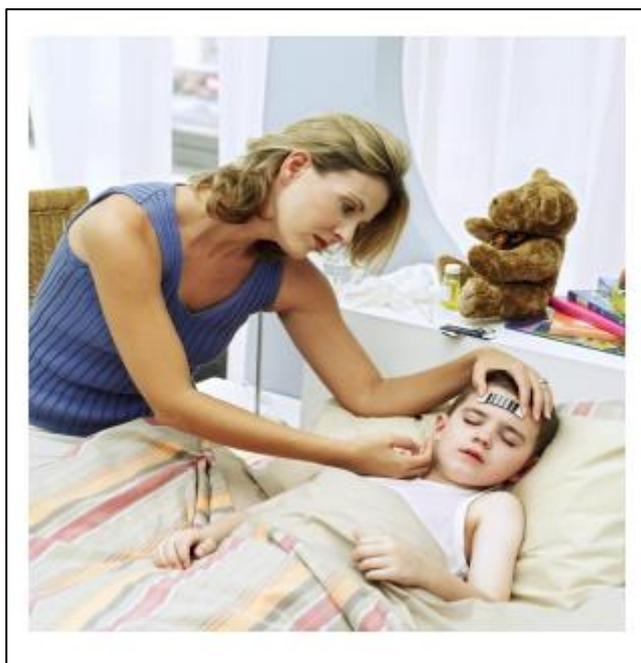
Massey Close Hull HU3 3QT

Academy Telephone Number: **01482 217898**

## Academy Absence

### Guidance for Parents

#### Medical Appointments and Illness



This leaflet has been designed to help you make the right choices and advise you on the correct action to take when your child is ill.

Frequent absence is a serious problem for pupils as often much of the work they miss is not made up, leaving these pupils at a significant disadvantage for the remainder of their Academy career. There is a clear link between poor Academy attendance and low levels of achievement. Your help and support is required to address this problem as quickly as possible.

- Is my child well enough to do the activities of the Academy day?
- Does my child have a condition that could be passed on to other children or Academy staff?
- Would I take a day off if I had this condition?

Think carefully before keeping your child away from Academy for medical reasons. If they wake up saying they are unwell, consider whether the symptoms they have mean they need to stay at home.

Do not keep your child away from Academy 'just in case' when they could be in class learning.

If your child requires a medical appointment these should be made outside Academy hours wherever possible. However, if your child has an appointment during Academy time you must take an appointment card or letter to the Academy office so your child's absence can be authorised.

Your child should attend the Academy before and after the appointment.

Common conditions. If your child is ill, it is likely to be due to one of a few minor conditions. Whether you choose to send your child to Academy will depend on how severe you think the illness is. This guidance may assist you.

- Chicken pox - Children should be kept at home for 5 days from the onset of the rash.
- Coughs, colds - A child with a minor cough or cold may attend Academy.
- Earache - Medical advice should be sought.
- Headache - A child with a headache does not normally need to be absent from Academy. If the headache is more severe and accompanied by other symptoms, you should seek medical advice.
- Rashes - Rashes can be the first sign of many infectious diseases. If your child has a rash, check with a pharmacist, practice nurse or GP before sending them to Academy.
- Toothache - Academy attendance should be maintained until your child can be seen by a dentist.
- Vomiting and/or diarrhoea - children with these symptoms should be kept at home for 24 hours after their symptoms have gone. If symptoms persist or reoccur medical advice should be sought (this may differ to other Academy's, please check your individual Academy).

There is no reason for your child to be absent from Academy for minor ailments such as:

- Athlete's foot
- Cold Sores
- Conjunctivitis
- Hand, Foot & Mouth
- Head Lice
- Period Pains
- Ringworm
- Slapped Cheek
- Sore Throat
- Threadworms
- Tonsillitis
- Warts & Verrucae

You should however, seek treatment for the above ailments. Confidential medical advice can be sought from 8:00am onwards in relation to minor ailments from most pharmacies.

## More Serious Conditions

**Asthma.** If your child has been diagnosed with asthma you will need to inform the Academy. It is the parent/carers responsibility to ensure their child has an inhaler in Academy, labelled with their name and is not out of date. See the Academy asthma policy on our website or at the Academy office.

**Broken Bones.** Academy can often make arrangements, following medical advice, for children attending Academy with broken bones to stay inside where necessary. The Academy may in exceptional circumstances be able to help with transport and assist your child to be comfortable in Academy. If your child has broken a bone please contact the Academy office for advice following medical attention.

**Eczema.** Children with eczema can attend Academy even whilst being treated. Children should only be absent from Academy on the advice of the GP when the eczema is so severe.

**Glandular fever.** This infection is not caught by day to day contact, therefore your child does not need to stay away from Academy unless they feel too unwell to go.

**Impetigo.** If your child has, or you suspect they have impetigo, you must seek medical advice and keep your child away from Academy until the sores have scabbed over and are healing, or 48 hours after starting medication. Don't forget to wash your hands to prevent the illness spreading!

**High Temperature.** You can usually identify a high temperature through your child looking or feeling shivery. There are lots of reasons for a raised temperature and if symptoms persist you should seek medical attention. As soon as your child is feeling better they can return to Academy.

Remember, if you are concerned about any aspect of your child's health you should consult a health professional. Advice can be obtained from the Academy nurse, NHS 111, your local chemist, walk-in centre or GP.

### Special Consideration in Academy

You need to inform the Academy if your child has had a hospital or surgical treatment and is returning to the Academy with stitches or a plaster cast or if they need to restrict their Physical Education lessons, break and lunchtimes. If your child has an on-going illness you will be required to come into Academy to discuss this.

### Prescribed Medication

In many cases the Academy is able to support your child to take their medication and prevent unnecessary absence. If your child's medicine is to be taken three times a day this can be done before Academy, after Academy and before bedtime to prevent any disruption. If your child is taking prescribed medication during Academy time the medicine must be handed into the Academy office.

## **Informing Academy of Minor Illness**

On each day, your child is absent a parent/carer must inform the Academy by 8:20am. Please telephone the school on 01482 217898. If the phone line is engaged then please leave a message. This must be done daily for every day that your child is absent.

If you do not inform the Academy then we will visit your home to check on your child's welfare.

If your child is frequently ill, the Academy may be able to offer additional support and advice.

Medical evidence may be requested to support your child's absence.

## **Absence for long periods of time**

If your child is absent from the Academy due to illness for more than three days, or is often absent for short periods you will be asked for supporting medical evidence (appointment cards etc.) to confirm the absence. If your child is frequently ill, the Academy may be able to offer additional support and advice.