

This guide from the SEND Schools Nursing Team has been written from the UK Health Security Agency – Children and Young people settings: Tools and resources, Exclusion table 2026.

Illness and Exclusion guidance for children and young people attending the SEND Schools

**Amwell View, Greenside, Lakeside, and Lonsdale Schools
only**

CYP who are considered unwell should not attend school.

This guidance advises the recommended period a child or young person (CYP/pupil) should remain off school after an illness, infection or procedure and is informed by the above governmental resource. The SEND Schools Nursing Team offer this guidance, and it is agreed in conjunction with the senior leadership teams at each school.

Please note: a temperature refers to 38 degrees Celsius and above. A CYP/pupil should not attend their educational setting with a temperature – please see ‘temperature’ below in table for full details. A CYP is considered to no longer have a temperature when they do not require medication to keep their temperature within normal limits.

Type of illness, infection, or procedure	Recommended period of absence or return to school
Admission to hospital	Once the CYP is well and the return to school paperwork has been completed with the SEND School nursing team.
Anaesthetic for a procedure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For day case general anaesthesia or oral sedation, the CYP cannot return to school until at least 24hours from the recovery starting point. For overnight stays following general anaesthetic CYP must not return until a full 48hours from when the recovery period started.
Antibiotics	If a CYP is started on antibiotics for a suspected infection, they should not return to school until 24hours after starting the antibiotic and only if they do not have any diarrhoea, vomiting or pyrexia.
Athletes foot	No exclusion required but CYP should not share towels or be barefoot in shared areas such as changing or swimming areas.
Chicken pox	At least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all of the blisters have crusted over. Pregnant staff who have had contact with the CYP in the incubation period should contact their GP or Midwife.
Cold sores/herpes simplex	No exclusion, but they should not touch the area infected. If a CYP is likely to touch the infected area, then we recommend

	treatment is started before the CYP returns to school.
Conjunctivitis	No exclusion, but they should not touch the area infected. If a CYP is likely to touch the infected area, then we recommend treatment is started before the CYP returns to school. Treatment can be sourced via a pharmacist.
Diarrhoea/diarrhoea & vomiting/vomiting/gastrointestinal infection	CYP can return to school 48hours after diarrhoea and vomiting have stopped.
Ear infection	No exclusion but if the CYP has a temperature please keep them off school until they no longer have one. See temperature for full details.
Flu (influenza) or a flu like illness	CYP not to return to school until they are well/recovered and have no temperature. See temperature for full details.
Glandular fever	No exclusion for this diagnosis alone but CYP not to return to school until they are well/recovered and have no temperature. See temperature for full details.
Hand foot and mouth	No exclusion for this diagnosis alone but CYP not to return to school until they are well/recovered and have no temperature. See temperature for full details
Headlice	No exclusion but please treat the CYP for this before they return to school. Consider treating the whole household if affected.
Hepatitis	Contact your local UKHSA team for specific guidance
Impetigo	CYP must not return to school until lesions are crusted over and healed or a full 48hours after starting antibiotic treatment.
Measles	CYP must not attend school until four days after the onset of the rash and only if they are well. See also temperature for full details.
Meningitis (viral, bacterial, septicaemia)	CYP can return to school once well/recovered. See also temperature for details.
Mpox	CYP must not return to school until it is confirmed safe to do so by their tertiary clinician in line with current guidance.
MRSA	No exclusion required but please ensure the SEND Schools Nursing Team are aware if the CYP has any active wounds. These will need to be covered with a dressing.
Mumps	CYP can return to school from 5 days after the onset of swelling when they are well/recovered. See also temperature for details.
Respiratory infections (bacterial or viral)	CYP should not attend school if they have a temperature (see temperature for full details). CYP can return when they are well/recovered and meet temperature criteria.
Ringworm	CYP must commence treatment before they return to school. The affected area must be covered where possible if the CYP is likely to touch it.
Rubella (German measles)	CYP can return to school from 5 days after the onset of the rash once they are well/recovered. See also temperature for full details.
Scabies	CYP cannot return to school until 24hours after the first dose of treatment. Household close contacts also require treatment at the same time.
Scarlet fever	CYP cannot return until at least 24hours after commencing antibiotic treatment. See also temperature for full details.
Slapped cheek/Fifth disease/Parvovirus	No exclusion once the rash has developed but CYP should not attend school until they are well. See also temperature for full details. Pregnant staff who have had close contact should

	contact their GP/Midwife.
Temperature (pyrexia of 38 degrees Celsius and above)	CYP must not attend school with a temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or above. CYP must not return to school until they no longer have a temperature. CYP must not return to school until they no longer require regular medication to keep their temperature within normal limits (paracetamol and ibuprofen). Please seek medical advice via the GP if infection is suspected.
Threadworms	No exclusion required but if the CYP is likely to touch the affected area then please ensure treatment is started before they return to school. The entire household should be treated.
Tonsillitis	No exclusion but please ensure if they are on antibiotics they do not return until 24hours after commencing treatment. See also temperature for full details.
Tuberculosis/TB	Consult your local UKHSA team for specific discussion. For pulmonary TB CYP should not return to school until at least 2 weeks from starting antibiotic treatment.
Warts or verrucae	No exclusion required but please keep the area covered for swimming. Please also consider covering them if they are in open areas of the body to reduce the risk of spread.
Whooping cough	CYP must not return until 48hours after commencing antibiotic treatment OR 14 days after the onset of illness if no antibiotic treatment is commenced. See also temperature for full details of criteria regarding this also.

Each educational setting has their own local guidance regarding swimming. Please consult the education team for this if needed.

Resources used:

- **UK Health Security Agency – Children and Young people settings: Tools and resources, Exclusion table 2026**
- **Cambridge University Hospital 2025 – Information for children having had general anaesthesia**
- **<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>**
- **Gov.UK 2017/2025 – Health protection in children and young people’s settings including education**
- **Gov.Uk 2025 - What infections are, how they are transmitted and those at higher risk of infection**
- **HSC Public Health Agency 2017 – Guidance on infection control in schools and other childcare settings**

Useful contact details

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Leaflet information

You can request this information in a different format or another language; please speak to your nursing team.

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