

## SICKNESS & MEDICATIONS POLICY

We believe that if your child is unwell, then rest with a loving parent in a cosy home environment is required until your child is fully well again. Parents must give their child's welfare priority. Please cooperate with us to improve the health and wellbeing of all who attend or work at Longwood. We have a duty of care for all at Longwood, and consideration by parents for the entire group must be exercised. This maintains a healthy environment for all children, staff and parents.

On arrival at Longwood, parents / guardians must notify staff about their child's state of health, whether their child is suffering or has recently suffered from any illness or infection, has had a loose motion, an above-normal temperature or any vomiting.

We shall require children to be cleared, either by your G.P. or by ourselves, for any illness or infection, before returning to Longwood. We take note of the Public Health Agency's Guidance on Infection Control in Schools and other Child Care Settings – Published March 2017. This provides details of exclusion times for children that are suffering or have recently suffered from illnesses or infections.

Children will be excluded for a **minimum** of 48 hours after he / she becomes symptom-free of diarrhoea and/or vomiting. Children will be excluded for a **minimum** of 24 hours whilst antibiotics are administered for illnesses or infections.

We try to eliminate conjunctivitis from Longwood. For this reason, all children having contracted the infection must be kept away from Longwood until a marked improvement has occurred. Children will be excluded for a minimum of 24 hours from Longwood, whilst medication is administered.

**Prescribed medications must be in date and in its original container before they will** (including creams) be administered to your child. A **Parental Agreement for Administering Medicine** form must be completed and signed by the parent or guardian for each medication at the office. A parental agreement for administering medicine form is to be completed at the beginning of each week for each medication. Please note that medications will be administered between 1 and 2pm only. This is to enable qualified staff to monitor the medicines and lessen the time staff are away from the children. A qualified member of staff will administer medications as well as record the amount of medication, the date and time, and initial the form. All medicines are cross-checked with the form and the child with another member of staff in the group before the medicine is administered.

**Calpol will be given once if your child develops a temperature. You will be contacted to collect your child if your child is unwell or a temperature persists. A normal temperature for at least 24 hours prior to your child's return is required.**

**If a child needs medication or treatment on an ongoing basis, including creams, we will require a doctor's letter and we will cream your child once a day, inhalers which we will require a doctor's letter and given as needed. Epipens, this will only be administered with a complete individual management plan from your child's doctor or consultant confirming use of pirton and dosage, inhaler and puffs and epipen instructions.**

As antibiotics and medicine are prescribed over a twenty-four hour period, it is essential to spread the dosage so that maximum effect is achieved. Inhalers / breathing apparatus will be administered as required in emergencies.

Management will assess the health of staff to ensure that they can provide the appropriate levels of care for the children or be sent home.