



Student Illness and Fever Policy

Vale Park Primary School Policy: Managing Student Illness and Fevers

To maintain a healthy learning environment for all, we ask families to follow these guidelines when your child is unwell, especially if they have been sent home from school with a fever (37.8°C or above) or other symptoms of illness.

Decision-Making About Sending a Child Home

Please note that the decision to send a child home is based not only on their temperature but also on their overall presentation. While a fever of 37.8°C or above is an important indicator, staff will also consider the following symptoms and behaviours:

- Drowsiness or excessive tiredness
- Loss of appetite or not eating/drinking as usual
- Low energy or general lethargy
- Any of the additional symptoms listed below

A child's temperature will not always be the sole determining factor. If your child appears unwell, even in the absence of a fever, you will be contacted to collect them for their comfort and recovery, as well as to prevent the spread of illness.

At-Home Care

- Monitor your child closely for any changes to their health.
- Seek medical advice if your child's condition worsens, or if you have any concerns.

When Can My Child Return to School?

Your child can return to school when:

1. They have been fever-free (temperature below 37.8°C) for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.
2. They are generally well, alert, and able to participate in normal school activities.
3. Other symptoms have improved (see below), and no new significant symptoms have developed.

Other Signs and Symptoms to Monitor

Please keep your child at home and seek medical advice if they have any of the following symptoms:

- Vomiting or diarrhoea (do not return until at least 24 hours after the last episode)
- Persistent coughing, difficulty breathing, or shortness of breath
- Sore throat, especially with fever and/or swollen glands
- Unexplained rash or skin sores
- Conjunctivitis (red, sticky or discharge-filled eyes)
- Severe headache or unexplained fatigue
- Loss of taste or smell

Important Reminders

- Inform the school if your child is unwell and the nature of their symptoms.
- For certain illnesses (e.g., COVID-19, influenza, chickenpox, etc.), the school may require a medical clearance or longer exclusion periods, in accordance with current SA Health guidelines.
- Encourage your child to practise good hygiene at all times (frequent handwashing, covering coughs and sneezes).

Thank you for your support in keeping our school community healthy and safe.

**Information sourced from The Women's and Children's Hospital Fact Sheet*