



First Aid/Sick Child Policy and Procedures

St Brendans BNS

At St Brendans BNS we believe it is of paramount importance that children are in school as often as possible in order that they can make the best possible progress. The health and well-being of children is of paramount importance and we wish to support all parents who have any concerns about their child's well-being. In order to maintain a clean and healthy environment for all our children we ask that parents refrain from bringing children to school if they are sick and displaying signs of illness (unless they just have a cold in which case they should be encouraged to come to school).

St Brendans BNS recognises its responsibility to promote a culture where health issues are discussed in an open and positive way to achieve high standards.

Aims:

- To ensure sick children are identified
- To ensure sick children are cared for appropriately
- To protect children and adults from preventable infection
- To enable staff and parents to be clear about the requirements and procedures when children are unwell
- To deal efficiently and effectively emergencies that may arise while children are in our care.

Procedures for Sick Children

If a child becomes ill in school the following procedures will be followed.

- If a child informs their teacher/ leader that they feel unwell the teacher/leader will make a decision if the child is too unwell to be in school.
- If a child has been vomiting or has diarrhoea they will be sent home immediately, children should not return to school for 24 hours after their last case of vomiting/diarrhoea.
- If a child is unwell they will be taken to the school office and a member of staff will contact parents/guardians.
- If contact cannot be made with parents/guardians then staff will contact the emergency contacts provided by the parents on the admissions form.
- The child will be made comfortable while they wait to be collected. Boys are seated in the armchairs adjacent to the bathroom on the library corridor in order to access this facility quickly if needed.
- If necessary a first aider will be consulted for advice on an illness.

- If parents/ emergency contacts cannot be reached the child will be made comfortable and monitored and staff will continue to try to make contact.
- If a notifiable disease is suspected the admin manager/ senior leader will contact the Health Service Executive (HSE) and school will follow the advice given. The school will also inform the Board of Management if a notifiable disease is confirmed by the Health Service Executive (HSE).
- In the case of an emergency when the child's health is at risk an ambulance will be called and a member of staff will accompany the child to hospital. Parents/ authorised adult will be contacted.
- If a child is off sick from school parents are expected to ring in each morning and leave a message giving the reason for their child's absence.
- Parents should send a note on their return to the school.

Child Protection:

In the interests of Child Protection, no staff member is permitted to enter the bathrooms while a child is present. If a child is vomiting or has diarrhea we will ensure that a child remains within easy access of a bathroom while he waits for his parent/guardian to collect him. We will try to minimize the spread of infectious germs to other children and staff by isolating the sick child as soon as possible. When a child has left the school the bathroom can be inspected and dealt with under the Bodily Spills Policy.

First Aid

Under duties set out in the Health & Safety Policy, the School recognises its responsibilities in providing adequate and appropriate equipment, facilities and personnel to enable suitable first aid to be given at the School.

The School has at least one designated member of staff responsible for First Aid. First aiders hold current First Aid Certificates. They are responsible for maintaining the correct contents of all First Aid boxes and administering First Aid when necessary and appropriate.

The Principal will ensure that there is a fully trained First Aider (or an appointed person in the event of there being no alternative) available at all times during the school day. The Principal will also be responsible for enabling the members of staff concerned to receive adequate First Aid training.

The First Aid box will be regularly checked to ensure its contents are up to date, in good condition and fulfil the criteria set out in the Health and Safety policy.

The location of the First Aid box, and the names of any other qualified first-aiders, will be clearly displayed around the School's premises.

A First Aid box will be taken on all off site visits or outings. This is the responsibility of the teacher accompanying the group on the visit, or where this is not possible, the SNA.

In the Event of a Major Accident, Incident or Illness

The School requests that Parents/Guardians complete and sign an emergency medical treatment form enabling the Principal or any member of staff so empowered, to give permission for emergency medical treatment for their child in the event of a major accident, incident or illness

occurring at the school.

In the event of a major accident, incident or illness occurring at school the following procedures will apply:

In the first instance, the First Aider will be notified and take responsibility for deciding upon the appropriate action. The First Aider will assess the situation and decide whether the child needs to go straight to hospital or whether they can safely wait for their parent/carer to arrive. If the child needs to go straight hospital, an ambulance will be called. The parents/carer will also be contacted. A member of staff will accompany the child to hospital and will wait with the child until consent to medical treatment being given has been received from the parents/guardians.

If the child does not need to go straight to hospital but their condition means they should go home, the parent/guardian will be contacted and asked to collect their child. In the meantime, the child will be made as comfortable as possible and be kept under close supervision.

Parents/guardians will be made fully aware of the details of any incidents involving their child's health and safety, and any actions taken by the School.

All such accidents will be recorded in the Incident folder.

The school will report any accidents to the HSE where necessary. The Principal and other relevant members of staff should consider whether the accident or incident highlights any actual or potential weaknesses in the School's policies or procedures, and act accordingly, making suitable adjustments where necessary.

In the Event of a Minor Accident, Incident or Illness

In first instance, the designated First Aider will be notified and take responsibility for deciding upon any appropriate action.

If the child does not need hospital treatment and is judged to be able to safely remain at the School, the First Aider will remove the child from the activities and, if appropriate, treat the injury/illness themselves.

If and when the child is feeling sufficiently better, they will be resettled back into the activities, but will be kept under close supervision for the remainder of the session. Dependent upon the type of injury, (i.e bump to the head, not requiring hospital treatment) admin staff will telephone the parents to inform them that the child has had an accident.

At the end of the day, the teaching staff will fully inform the parent/guardian either verbally or by note of the incident or accident and any treatment given.

If the injury or illness incurred is such that treatment by the First Aider is deemed inappropriate but does not warrant hospitalization, the parent/guardian will be contacted immediately and asked to collect their child. Until the parent/guardian arrives, the child will be kept under close supervision and as comfortable as possible.

All such accidents will be recorded in the Incident folder.

Medication – please see: Administration of Medicine Policy and Procedures

Closing the School in an emergency

In very exceptional circumstances, the School may need to be closed at very short notice due an unexpected emergency. Such incidents should include:

- Serious weather conditions (combined with heating system failure)
- Burst water pipes.
- Discovery of dangerous structural damage
- Fire or bomb scare/explosion
- Death of member of staff
- Serious assault on a staff member by the public
- Serious accident or illness

In such circumstances, under the direction of the Principal the staff will ensure that all steps are taken to keep both the children and themselves safe. All staff and children will assemble at the pre-arranged venue (**See Fire Emergency Plan**) where a register will be taken.

Steps will then be taken to inform parents/guardians via text-a-parent system and to take the necessary actions in relation to the cause of the closure. All children will be supervised until they are safely collected.

Exclusion of sick children from school

We understand the needs of working parents and do not aim to exclude children from school unnecessarily. However the decision of the school is final when requesting the exclusion of a child for illness or infection.

Decisions will take into account the needs of the child and those of the group.

Children with infectious or contagious diseases will be excluded for certain periods. If a member of staff suspects that a child has an infectious or contagious disease, they will request that parents consult a doctor before returning the child to school.

We recommend that no child may attend the school while suffering from one of the communicable diseases and they should be excluded for the minimum periods recommended. Please see guidelines to illness / communicable diseases provided in Appendix 1.

Coughs and colds do not normally require the child to be excluded but this depends on the severity and how the child is able to cope with the school routine. If a child appears unwell we may ask that the child is taken home.

RECOMMENDED PERIOD OF EXCLUSION FROM ST BRENDANS BNS FOR ILLNESS/COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

Disease/Illness:	Exclusion Period:
Antibiotic prescribed	First 2 days at home. At least 48 hours. (Then if needed follow administering medicine policy)
Temperature	If sent home ill, child must be off for 24 hours seek medical attention.
Vomitting and Diarrhoea	48 hours from the last time child was sick or had diarrhoea.
Conjunctivitis	Until treated.
Chicken Pox	One week from the appearance of spots until they have crusted over.
Gastroenteritis, food poisoning, salmonellas and dysentery	Until authorised by physician.
Measles	5 days from the appearance of rash.
Meningococcal Infection	Until fully recovered from the illness.
Mumps	5 days from onset of swollen glands.
Pertussis (Whooping cough)	5 days from commencing antibiotic.
Rubella (German Measles)	5 days from appearance of rash
Scarlet Fever and Streptococcal infection of the throat	Until appropriate medical treatment has been given and in no case for less the 3 days from the start of treatment.
Impetigo	Until the skin has healed.
Pediculosis	Until appropriate treatment has been given.
Planter warts, verrucae	No exclusion. Should be treated and covered.
Ringworm of scalp	Until cured.
Ringworm of the body	Seldom necessary to exclude provided treatment is being given and covered over.

Scabies	Once authorized by physician.
Cold Sores	No exclusion.
Hand, Foot and Mouth	No exclusion.
Slap Cheek	No exclusion.
E.Coli	Seek advice from the CCDC.
Flu (Influenza)	No exclusion.
Glandular Fever	No exclusion.
Tontillitis	No exclusion.
If child needs multiple doses of calpol etc	Until child has recovered and no longer needs calpol or alternative.

