Budapest British International School

STUDENT SICKNESS POLICY

Student Sickness Policy

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the well-being of all students and to prevent the spread of illness within the school community. This policy outlines guidelines for parents and guardians regarding when to keep their child at home due to illness and when it is safe for them to return to school.

The aims of this policy

- To help parents/carers understand the procedures around illness and sickness for children attending school.
- To clarify how to contact you regarding your child's absence
- To explain the procedures staff at the school will follow if your child becomes unwell.

Our mission at BBIS

We provide care and education for healthy children. We will keep them healthy (as far as possible) by preventing cross-infection of viruses and bacterial infections.

Upon induction to our school, parents must complete a medical form detailing emergency contact details and any past or current medical history that the school needs to be aware of.

When your child is sick, please follow the guidelines below.

Guidelines for Parents and Guardians:

Fever:

- Keep your child at home if they have a temperature of 100°F (37.8°C) or higher.
- Your child should be fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications (such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen) before returning to school.

Vomiting and Diarrhoea:

- If your child has vomited or had diarrhoea, keep them at home until they have been symptom-free for at least 48 hours and they are eating normally. Following the WHO guidelines, the 48-hour clock starts only after your child was sick or had loose stool. Please take this into consideration.
- Encourage your child to drink plenty of fluids to stay hydrated.

Cough and Cold:

- Mild cold symptoms, such as a runny nose and occasional cough, may not require keeping your child at home.
- If your child has a persistent cough, significant congestion, or difficulty breathing, it is advisable to keep them home until symptoms improve.
- If your child has a runny nose with thick/green discharge (especially if the child is unable to blow/ clean his/her nose independently) please keep them at home.

Contagious Illness:

- If your child has been diagnosed with a contagious illness (e.g., strep throat, chickenpox, flu, conjunctivitis, Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease), keep them at home until they are no longer contagious as determined by a healthcare professional.

Head Lice:

- If your child has head lice, the school cannot require them to stay home. However, we strongly recommend seeking treatment and keeping your child at home until treatment is completed. Please consult the school nurse for guidance on when it is safe for your child to return.

Antibiotics:

- Where children have been prescribed antibiotics, parents are asked to keep them at home until the treatment is finished unless otherwise advised by a healthcare professional.

If your child experiences ***any of the following*** symptoms, keep them at home:

- sore eyes with pus or mucus
- sore throat
- persistent cough
- rash or skin sores, especially on the face, hands and feet
- feeling of weakness, extreme tiredness, fatigue

Please note that if parents bring children who are unhealthy to school, they will be asked to take them home again. Parents who cannot care for their children when they are unwell must have adequate alternative arrangements in place.

Communicate with school

- Notify the school as soon as possible if your child is unwell and will be absent. Provide details of the illness so the school can monitor and respond appropriately.
- In case of your child's absence, please email both your child's class teacher and absences@bbis.hu
- Parents must notify staff if their child has been unwell during the weekend or night and if they have been given any medicine before coming to school. Parents must not send their child to school if he/she is unwell or needs medication on the given day (painkiller, laxative, etc.).

When a student starts feeling unwell at school

- If a student feels unwell during school hours, they should notify their teacher and visit the school nurse. Students should not reach out to parents independently. The nurse will assess the situation and, if necessary, contact the parents. Special cases will be discussed beforehand.
- When a child becomes ill at school, his/her temperature is taken using a digital ear thermometer by a member of staff or the school nurse. A sick student is separated and supervised safely away from their peers.
- If necessary, every effort will be made to contact the parents, who will be requested to collect their child as soon as possible or send an authorised carer to collect the child on their behalf. Parents must ensure that the school can contact them or a person they nominated at all times. If an unauthorized carer is to be sent, the school requires an email from the parents to absences@bbis.hu, including the carer's copy of ID and written permission from the parent. If an MYP/DP student exhibits infectious symptoms (such as skin sores, persistent coughing, fatigue, etc.), and the school nurse, in consultation with the Assistant Coordinator, determines that the student is able to go home independently, the child may return home with parental consent.
- If a parent is called to collect their child because they become unwell whilst at school, the child should be kept at home on the following day unless otherwise advised by a medical professional. Sometimes, staff may ask parents to take their child to a doctor before returning to the setting.
- Once a child has been sent home, they are not allowed to return to school premises for activities such as collecting siblings or joining extra school activities.
- If a student falls ill during school trips, parents will be informed and required to collect their child

Returning to School:

- Parents and guardians should ensure that their child is well enough to participate in the school day before allowing them to return. If in doubt, consult with a healthcare professional.
- To ensure the health and safety of all students and staff, we require a Doctor's note stating that the child is healthy and permitted to rejoin the community on the day a student returns to school following an illness.

Absences and the consequences:

The school is authorized to track and monitor attendance related to illness, as well as how frequently absences are reported. In Hungary, the legal regulations regarding student absences and their consequences are primarily outlined in the Act CXC of 2011 on National Public Education (the "Education Act").

Excused Absences:

In Hungary, parents can justify up to 3 days of absence per semester without a doctor's certificate. However, if the student is absent for more than three days, a doctor's certificate may be requested by the school for excused absences.

Unexcused Absences:

- After 5 unexcused absences, schools must notify the parents.
- After 10 unexcused absences, the school is required to inform child protection services.
- If a student exceeds 30 unexcused absences, the school must notify the local authorities, and further legal consequences, including potential fines, may follow.

Excessive Absence:

- 50 unexcused absences can lead to a suspension of family benefits.
- If a student accumulates 250 hours of absence, they might not be evaluated and could potentially fail the school year unless they pass a special examination authorized by the principal.

Required medical documentation:

Any medical documentation will be handled with the utmost confidentiality and shared only with those directly involved in the student's care, such as the school doctor and necessary staff members.

- For students affected by long-term or chronic illnesses, BBIS requests the most recent medical documentation to ensure continuous support and necessary referrals are provided.

- If a student is advised by the school nurse to seek professional medical attention, and a diagnosis and treatment plan have been established, the school requests the documentation provided by the doctor. This allows us to better support the student in the future and to ensure their safety.
- Parents should inform the school immediately of any updates regarding the health status of their child.

Precautionary measures in case of an outbreak:

In the case of an outbreak, the school will implement measures to prevent further spread, including more frequent cleaning, maintaining strict hygiene practices, and ensuring that staff are well-prepared to manage sick students and maintain a safe and healthy environment. A special emergency protocol may be implemented to prevent further spread. This may include, but is not limited to;

- Requiring the use of masks,
- Regular temperature checks at the school gates upon arrival,
- Students displaying even mild symptoms of illness may be required to stay at home,
- Requiring home isolation for close contacts living with an infected individual,
- Implementing a brief home incubation period for students returning from areas heavily impacted by the outbreak,
- The school can decide to implement a temporary closure or shift to online learning,
- Where necessary, submit proof of mandatory or recommended immunisation to the school.

By adhering to this sickness policy, parents and guardians contribute to maintaining a healthy and safe learning environment for all students. Your cooperation is appreciated in promoting the well-being of our school community.

Note: This policy is subject to change based on public health guidelines and recommendations. Parents and guardians will be informed of any updates to the sickness policy as needed.