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Regulations to modernise admissions and attendance registers. Illness

Coding:

The pupil is unable to attend due to illness (both physical and mental health related). Schools should advise parents to notify them on the first day the child is unable to attend due to illness.

Schools are not expected to routinely request that parents provide medical evidence to support illness absences.

In the majority of cases a parent's notification that their child is too ill to attend school will be that evidence and can be accepted without question or concern

Where illness is given as the reason for absence the school should consider, and share with the parent, the advice provided by the NHS [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

Where absence exceeds the recommended time, further conversation should be had with the parent/carer to explore whether the absence will remain as illness or unauthorised absence.

Policy, Process, Practice:

Schools should not have a whole school policy on when absence will be authorised. Absence for illness should be considered individually for each child considering the reason, the primary care being provided, previous absence, trends, patterns, other information shared, current monitoring stage (support/formalising/enforcement), and interventions/support being provided.

Medical Evidence:

Schools are not expected to routinely request that parents provide medical evidence to support illness absences. Where medical evidence is deemed necessary, school should not be rigid about the form of evidence requested and should speak to the family about what evidence is available. GPs cannot provide evidence for a child's absence, but can be contacted through the GP Protocol with the Local Authority to ascertain if the section 19 duty is met.

Mental Health and Wellbeing:

When a pupil's absence is the result of mental health, wellbeing, school-based avoidance, or anxiety the school should work with the pupil and parent to explore reasonable adjustments. Where the attending school is having detrimental impact on their health parents should be advised to seek support from the GP.

The Local Authority 'Pupils Unable to Attend due to Health or Otherwise Policy' should be referred to when considering the appropriate support. If the pupil and parents are engaging with the plan of support, and engaging with Health services this could be coded as illness (1).