



E-ACT Bannerman Road

Community Academy

October 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Absences due to illness

Moments Matter - If your child is missing school, they are missing out

I hope this letter finds you well. As we enter this time of year, coughs, colds, and sore throats become inevitable for many children and adults. We wanted to take a moment to clarify our expectations regarding attendance when your child is unwell.

When your child experiences mild symptoms, we encourage you to assess their condition each morning. If they are able, please send them to school. Many common ailments can be effectively managed with over-the-counter medications. This allows your child to continue their learning and participate in school activities, even if they're feeling a bit under the weather. If your child becomes more unwell during the day, we will reach out to discuss whether it's appropriate for you to collect them.

We understand that deciding whether to send your child to school when they're feeling unwell is never easy. However, not sending them can negatively impact both their short-term and long-term learning and social development. **For this reason, if a student accumulates a high number of absences due to illness, the academy may not be able to approve any further similar absences unless evidence of the illness is provided. If this situation arises, we will reach out to you individually to inform you of this decision.** This policy is in place to protect your child's education.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out. We understand that every family is unique and may have individual circumstances, and we would be happy to have a personal conversation with you about this policy.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Yours sincerely

Oliver Laken, Head teacher