



GROUP A STREPTOCOCCUS (GAS)/SCARLET FEVER POLICY

Group A Streptococcus is a bacterium that can be found in the throat and on the skin. People may carry it and have no symptoms or may develop infection.

It can be spread between people by sneezing and skin contact, some people will have symptoms of illness and others may feel fine but in both cases the bacteria can still be passed on to others.

Some illnesses that can be caused by this are relatively mild with symptoms including a sore throat, scarlet fever, skin infection such as impetigo. On rare occasions these bacteria can cause other severe infections that can be life threatening. Scarlet fever should be treated with antibiotics to minimise the risk of complication and spreading it to others.

Symptoms of Scarlet fever are.

- Sore throat
- Headache
- Fever
- Nausea and vomiting
- Fine red rash typically appears on the chest
- Skin has a feeling of sandpaper to touch
- Face can be flushed but pale around the mouth area

Invasive Group A Streptococcal is rare and is caused when bacteria gets into parts of the body where it's not usually found. This can be very serious and even life threatening.

Symptoms of invasive Group A Streptococcal disease are

- High Fever
- Severe muscle tenderness
- Redness at the side of the wound

If your child becomes unwell with these symptoms, please contact your GP or call NHS 111 for advice

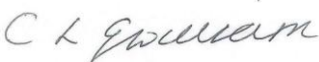
This organisation is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

If your child becomes unwell with these symptoms when attending the setting, you or your next point of contact will be contacted for immediate pick up from the setting.

If your child is unwell, they should stay off school until they feel better.

We always advise good hygiene practice to help stop illnesses, washing hands and catch coughs and sneezes in tissues and dispose of appropriately.

Information displayed in this policy has been sought from the [UK Health Security Agency - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk).

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