

***'An ever-evolving experience for ever-evolving learners, ensuring success today and preparedness for tomorrow'***

At GEMS Jumeirah Primary School, we believe that everyone can achieve highly with equitable access to the right opportunities and support. As a World Class High Performance Learning school, we recognise and embrace the uniqueness of every child. We create an inclusive, nurturing environment, prioritising the psychological wellbeing of all, allowing children to feel happy, safe and confident. Children at JPS know that anything is possible for them and they aspire to be the best versions of themselves.

We meet the diverse needs of all children and their families to facilitate the best possible individual experience to ensure our learners excel beyond their potential flight path. Our bespoke, innovate curriculum is carefully designed and continually reviewed to:

- Guide learners in developing their values, behaviours and learner competencies to prepare them for success in an ever-evolving world
- Challenge learners and help them to discover their passions, talents and interests
- Provide leadership opportunities for all learners, allowing them to influence the direction of travel for key aspects of school

We are a diverse learning community, passionate about inspiring a love for learning in our children, staff and families. Our inclusive actions and behaviours are led by our core values of Kindness, Empathy, Respect, Hard Work and Resilience. This is clear through our acts of philanthropy and environmental sustainability. The JPS family is proud to lead the way in contributing positively to our local and wider community.

## **1 Introduction**

The purpose of this policy is to help prevent the spread of disease by breaking the chain of infection in order to ensure the continuous health and safety of our community.

*We are all responsible for preventing the spread of viruses.*

If you stay home when feeling sick, you can:

✓ *Stop the spread.*

A recent study found that a sick person can spread their germs to up to 60% of commonly touched surfaces in the workplace in just four hours, greatly increasing the chance an illness will spread to others. Even if you did not touch anything while at work, which is next to impossible, your illness could be spread through close talking, sneezing or coughing.

✓ *Protect others*

If you share your germs with others, they can then share them with their loved ones. If any of these people are chronically ill or part of populations more likely to get sick — such as older adults and infants — your shared germs could lead to severe illness, hospitalization and even death for those most at risk.

✓ *Prevent future illness.*

Fever and other signs of sickness are the way your body tells you it needs a break. Resting when sick helps to speed up your recovery, prevent your illness from becoming more severe and boost your immune system to decrease your risk of future illness.

Talk to your doctor if you are feeling sick and unsure if you should go to work. If you do choose to take a sick day, make sure you protect others in your home by keeping your distance, washing your hands with soap and water several times a day and regularly disinfecting shared surfaces.

## **2 Aims**

This Policy aims to:

- Ensure the wellbeing and safety of all children and staff by keeping sick people away from those who are not sick to reduce the spread of any communicable illness
- Provide a framework of what to do if feeling unwell
- Educate staff and families about when they/their children should stay home and when they can return to school
- Ensure teachers are responsible for the daily follow-up of students who are absent until they return to school
- Ensure absenteeism is monitored by checking daily absence records and the reasons for the unjustified absence of students

## **3 Roles and Responsibilities:**

*We are all responsible for preventing the spread of viruses.*

### Responsibilities of Teachers and the School:

As per the GEMS Safeguarding Policy, teachers are responsible for monitoring attendance closely to ensure their students' regular attendance at school. Teachers are therefore required to follow-up with parents after every instance of unexplained absence.

**After 2 days of absence, a medical note is required from a doctor. Absences of 2 or more days without a doctor's note will be marked as 'unauthorised'.**

### Responsibilities of Parents:

Parents are responsible for:

- Ensuring the school clinic has up-to-date medical records for their child
- Informing their child's class teacher of every instance of absence from school, copying in [info\\_jps@gemsedu.com](mailto:info_jps@gemsedu.com)

It is important that children attend school every day that they are well, however a sick child is not able to function effectively in school and should rest at home until fully recovered.

To further reduce the spread of infection, **students should not return to school if they have:**

- Fever (37.5 C and above) - return to school only after being fever-free for at least 24 hours without the help of medication
- Skin rash of unknown origin/cause
- Vomiting and/or diarrhea (return to school after 24 hours of last episode)
- Nasal discharges
- Sore throat
- Persistent cough
- Red, watery, painful or sticky (yellow discharge) eyes.
- Head lice or nits
- Body Ache/ Fatigue
- Shortness of breath
- Headache
- Loss of sense of smell or taste

If a student has an infected or sore wound, it must be covered by a well-sealed dressing or plaster, before coming to school or sending to class.

All cases of infectious diseases like chicken pox, measles, mumps, hand, foot and mouth, etc. should be away from the school for all periods of communicability and **will be only allowed to attend the school with a fit to return to school certificate from the treating physician.**

**After 2 days of absence, a medical note is required from a doctor. Absences of 2 or more days without a doctor's note will be marked as 'unauthorised'.**

(An exemption to this may be made for known cases, for example, if a child has an ongoing medical condition with migraines, allergy, hay fever, season-related asthma, allergic rhinitis, etc. on production of a doctor's certificate, which is to be kept in the School Clinic.)

Should a **student become sick at school** or require home or doctor care, the following procedure will be followed:

#### **Screening for ill/unwell students**

1. **If a student has no fever and no significant findings**, the *school nurse* will do an assessment and first treatment. If there is no significant finding, they will be sent back to class.
2. **If a student develops fever** during school hours, parents will be contacted and requested to take the child home. They may return to school after being fever-free without taking fever-reducing medication for 24 hours.
3. **If a student vomits or has an episode of diarrhea** during school hours, parents will be contacted and requested to take the child home. They may return to school after being vomit/diarrhea-free for 24 hours.
4. **If a student has any of the symptoms (listed in section 3)**, they will be directed to the isolation room. They should leave the school as soon as possible. The school medical team will inform the parents of the necessary documents that need to be submitted (PCR test, Medical certificate with diagnosis). The child's class teacher will also be informed of the return-to-school procedure\*. Deep cleaning/fogging in classrooms will be initiated by the operations team. **Students may only return if completely symptom free.**

\*On the day of return, students should report to the school clinic for assessment and issuance of clearance slips. In the event that they present with symptoms, they will not be accepted to continue the day on site.

#### **4 Procedure for Absence**

If feeling very unwell before arriving at school, parents should keep their child at home and inform their child's class teacher of the reason for absence, copying in [info\\_jps@gemsedu.com](mailto:info_jps@gemsedu.com).

**For Influenza/COVID-19-related symptoms, parents should seek medical advice for further management. Upon medical advice, this may include conducting influenza or PCR tests (in approved labs).**

**Positive PCR** – Parents notify their child's class teacher, copying in our Medical Team [health\\_jps@gemsedu.com](mailto:health_jps@gemsedu.com) about the result.

The Dubai Health Authority has sent updates on precautionary measures and instructions against SARS-COV-2 in Health facilities, the followings are the updates:

- 1- It is Not Mandatory anymore for a Covid-19 positive individual to isolate for 5 days. Covid-19 positive individuals should seek medical advice, and the treating doctor will determine the appropriate course of action and the duration of sick leave needed, following standard protocols for infectious diseases.
- 2- In the case of a person testing positive for Covid-19 but showing no symptoms (asymptomatic), a clearance certificate, from the physician, is needed to attend the school.
- 3- Individuals identified as close contacts may continue with their normal daily activities, PCR is only required upon the symptoms' presence.

Kindly find attached link on the frequent questions and answers [COVID-19 FAQs - January 2024](#)

Reviewed By:



Principal/CEO

Date: May 2024