



# **Newcastle Junior School**

## ***Sick & Recovering Student Guidelines***

Newcastle Junior School has a duty of care to all its students. It will provide the necessary care as required if a student falls ill at school, has a seizure or has an accident. This may include calling emergency services or calling parents/carers to come and collect the student. **It is important to remember that parents/carers have the primary responsibility for the health needs of their child.**

The school has a duty of care to its students and staff to exclude the risk of cross infection from sick or recovering students. Some students have fragile health and are at a higher risk to cross infection. Students who become unwell at school, or return before they are completely well, are best transferred to the care of a parent/guardian/caregiver.

Under Government Health & Safety legislation, Junior School must ensure a safe and healthy environment for working and learning. **Our students' inability to manage their own personal hygiene is a significant risk to the health and wellbeing of other students and staff.** This includes students who require full assistance with blowing and clearing nasal mucus, or an inability to cover their nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing. In order to ensure that other students, staff and visitors are not exposed to unnecessary risks to their health or safety, students who are sick or not completely well and who cannot manage the necessary personal hygiene skills to prevent cross infection to others, should not return to school.

**Parent/caregivers should keep their child at home, if he/she:**

- **Is too ill to engage in classroom learning**
- **Is ill and sleeping for parts of the day**
- **Has an infectious illness or contagious diseases**
- **Is producing excessive excretions of bodily fluids including nasal mucus, phlegm, blood or pus**
- **Has high temperatures (fever)**
- **Has an infection eg. chest, throat, production of mucus**
- **Is recovering from an infection or hospitalisation**
- **Has been vomiting or had diarrhoea. Students must remain at home for at least 48 hours after the last episode of vomiting or diarrhoea**
- **Is not completely well and requires ongoing assistance to maintain personal hygiene practices throughout the day**

**It is the role of the school:**

- to contact the parent requesting the child to be taken home
- in the event that a parent cannot be contacted, the emergency contact person will be requested to take the child home, or where this is not possible
- the student will be transferred to the hospital for further medical assessment

**It is the role of parents to:**

- provide the school with reliable contact details including emergency contacts
- cooperate with the school on all student health matters
- keep the child at home when there is a risk of cross infection to other students or staff
- keep the child home until they are completely well
- liaise with the child's medical practitioner about the implications of the child's health condition for their schooling

The Principal reserves the right to ask parents/carers to keep their child at home. Any decision in this regard will, if possible, be made in consultation with DoE *Student Health in Public Schools Policy*, Hunter New England Health providers, carers, parents and, where permission is granted from medical practitioners.

**Potential | Determination | Achievement**