

Chief Executive Officer: **Helen Winn**

Rawcliffe Drive, Clifton (Without), York YO30 6ZS

Tel: 01904 560053

Email: hello@hslt.academy

www.hslt.academy

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Dear Parent/Carer

Public Health: Scarlet Fever Guidance for Educational Settings

Following the recent media articles regarding Scarlet Fever, please find below further information and guidance from Public Health.

Scarlet fever is usually a mild illness, but it is highly infectious and can be spread by close contact with someone carrying the bacteria. Therefore, please look out for symptoms in your child, which include a sore throat, headache, and fever, along with a fine, pinkish or red body rash with a sandpapery feel.

Parents should contact NHS 111 or your GP if you suspect your child has scarlet fever, because early treatment of scarlet fever with antibiotics is important to reduce the risk of complications such as pneumonia or a bloodstream infection. If your child has scarlet fever, keep them at home until **at least 24 hours after the start of antibiotic treatment** to avoid spreading the infection to others. If no antibiotics have been administered, the individual will be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks and should be excluded for this period.

Other illnesses

There are lots of viruses that cause sore throats, colds and coughs circulating. These should resolve without medical intervention. However, where both scarlet fever and/or flu are circulating at the same time there is a slight increased risk of more serious infection.

Good hand and respiratory hygiene are important for stopping the spread of many bugs. Using a tissue to catch coughs and sneezes and keeping away from others when feeling unwell will help reduce the risk of picking up or spreading infections.

Please contact the school if you suspect your child has scarlet fever.

Yours sincerely