

The purpose of  
this document is to  
promote well



Primary Years  
Programme

## MGIS Student Illness Policy



## **IB MISSION STATEMENT**

The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

To this end, the organization works with schools, governments, and international organizations to develop challenging programs of international education and rigorous assessment.

These programs encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate, and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

## **MGIS MISSION STATEMENT**

Transforming educational communities by fostering academic excellence, positive character, and appreciation of cultures.

## **MGIS VISION STATEMENT**

To be globally recognized as a pioneer in the advancement of comprehensive educational systems for critical language-oriented academies.



## 1- Philosophy

At MGIS, the health and well-being of students and staff are fundamental to providing a safe and supportive learning environment. In alignment with the IB PYP philosophy of caring for the whole child, this policy outlines expectations and procedures to manage illness, prevent the spread of communicable conditions, and support students' return to school in a healthy and timely manner. This policy is further aligned with the health and safety guidelines issued by the Saudi Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health regarding communicable diseases and student attendance.

## 2. General Illness Policy

### **When to Keep a Child at Home**

Students should remain at home if they show any of the following:

- Fever of 37.8°C (100°F) or higher within the last 24 hours
- Vomiting or diarrhea within the last 24 hours
- Severe or persistent cough, sore throat, or difficulty breathing
- Eye infections with redness, discharge, or crusting (e.g., conjunctivitis)
- Rash of unknown cause or contagious skin infections
- Unusual lethargy, irritability, or inability to participate in class activities
- Any contagious condition as advised by a physician

### **Return-to-School Guidelines**

Students may return to school when:

- They have been fever-free for at least 24 hours without medication
- They are free from vomiting or diarrhea for at least 24 hours
- They can fully participate in learning activities
- For certain conditions (e.g., strep throat, conjunctivitis), they must have been on prescribed medication for at least 24 hours
- A medical report is provided when required (at the school's discretion)

### **Emergency Responses and Isolation Procedure**

If a student becomes ill during the school day, they will be temporarily isolated in the designated health room under the supervision of the school nurse until they are picked up by a parent or guardian.



### 3. Communicable Diseases

- Parents must notify the school immediately if their child is diagnosed with a communicable disease (e.g., influenza, chickenpox, COVID-19, strep throat).
- Parents of the affected student(s) will be notified as needed, with confidentiality strictly maintained.
- The school nurse will provide guidance on when student(s) may return. For certain illnesses—especially communicable conditions, parents will be required to obtain a medical clearance from a licensed Saudi healthcare provider before the student is permitted to return to school.

### 4. Head Lice (Pediculosis) Policy

#### **Prevention and Education**

- The school community will be educated about lice to reduce stigma and misinformation.
- Students and parents will be reminded regularly to check hair at home, especially after holidays.
- Teachers and staff will maintain vigilance and report suspected cases to the school nurse.

#### **Detection at School**

- If lice or nits are suspected, the school nurse will conduct a confidential head check.
- If confirmed, the student's parents will be contacted immediately.
- The student may remain at home for one day (since lice are not a medical emergency), but treatment must be initiated before returning the next day.

#### **Treatment Requirements**

- Parents are responsible for initiating treatment the same day.
- Approved over-the-counter or prescription treatments must be applied.



- The child’s hair must be thoroughly combed to remove nits.
- The school nurse will re-check upon return to ensure proper treatment has started.

## Return-to-School Guidelines for Lice

- Students may return a day off once treatment has been applied.
- A “no nit” policy will not be enforced (to avoid unnecessary exclusion), but ongoing treatment and nit removal are required.
  - If live lice are found after repeated checks, the student may be required to stay home until effective treatment is confirmed.

## Classroom and Community Response

- The school will notify parents of classmates (without identifying the affected student).
  - Classrooms and shared spaces will be cleaned, though lice do not live long on furniture or surfaces.
  - Families will receive home instructions on checking and treating hair.

## 5. Roles and Responsibilities

- **Parents**
  - Monitor children for symptoms of illness and lice.
  - Keep children home when sick or infested.
  - Provide timely medical treatment and documentation when required.
  - All students must comply with the national immunization schedule as mandated by the Saudi Ministry of Health. Proof of vaccination will be requested during enrollment.
- **Students**
  - Follow hygiene practices (handwashing, coughing etiquette, not sharing hats/combs).
  - Report to teachers or the nurse if feeling unwell.



- **Teachers**
  - Observe and report signs of illness or lice.
  - Support health education and prevention practices in class.
- **School Nurse**
  - Monitor health incidents and maintain records.
  - Conduct confidential checks and manage communication with parents.
  - Provide education to staff, students, and parents.
- **Administration**
  - Ensure policies are communicated and enforced consistently.
  - Provide support for families, balancing student health and learning continuity.

## 6. Communication and Awareness

- The Illness Policy will be included in the Parent and Employee Handbooks, the school website, and orientation sessions.
- Regular reminders about hygiene and lice checks will be sent through ClassDojo/parent communication channels.
- Parents are encouraged to contact the school nurse for guidance at any time. All student medical records are maintained confidentially by the nurse, in line with data protection standards and relevant regulations in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

## 7- Policy Review

Annually, the PYP Sick Policy undergoes a comprehensive review process involving the school nurse, administrators, and the PYP coordinator during administration meetings before the commencement of the school year. Feedback and contributions from all stakeholders inform the refinement of the policy, ensuring it aligns optimally with the requirements of our school community. The PYP Sick Policy is accessible on our school website. *This policy complies with the directives of the Saudi Ministry of Education, and MGIS reserves the right to amend or update it at any time in response to new health advisories or government regulations.*

**Policy prepared by:** School Policies Committee & Student Well-being, Health, Safety, & Child Support Committee

**Date of Last Review:** January 2026

**Policy reviewed by:** School Leadership & Improvement Team (SLT)

**Policy Approved by:** Director of Operations