Stay at Home if Unwell Policy

Vision: Grow - Flourish - Succeed
Mission: Together we inspire creative, mindful learners who value diversity, support one another and strive for success.

1. Purpose

To safeguard the ongoing health and safety of our community by breaking the chain of infections and preventing the spread of infectious diseases.

2. Aims and Objectives

- A key measure to reduce the spread of communicable diseases is to prevent contact between sick individuals and those who are healthy.
- To ensure that any member of the school community (students or staff) remains at home when they are feeling unwell and/or exhibiting any suspicious symptoms of illness.
- To protect the well-being of our entire school community during any infectious disease outbreak

3. Assessment and Recording

At GEMS Founders School, Dubai (GFS), we are committed to maintaining a safe and healthy environment for all staff and students. To support this, we strongly encourage anyone experiencing symptoms to stay home for a minimum of 24 hours or as advised by their treating doctor. A medical certificate or attendance note with a clear diagnosis should be provided if they experience any of the following symptoms:

- Fever
- Respiratory symptoms, such as:
  - sore throat
  - Persistent cough, sneezing, runny nose etc.
- Vomiting and/ or diarrhea
- Unexplained rash
- Conjunctivitis (pink eye), with or without discharge
- Open wounds with discharge
- Head lice- *students may return once treatment has begun*
- Influenza, COVID- like symptoms- *return permitted only upon submission of a medical recovery note from a treating physician.*

Guidance for Students with Symptoms:

If a student displays any of the above symptoms, parents must keep them at home and inform the class teacher/form tutor, academic team, and school clinic. Students should only return to school once symptoms have fully resolved and they have been symptom-free for at least 24-48 hours. In cases where symptoms worsen, medical consultation is strongly advised.

4. General Strategy

GEMS Founders School, Dubai has implemented comprehensive safety measures to maintain a secure learning environment. The ongoing cooperation of staff, students, and parents is essential and deeply appreciated in supporting these efforts.

5. Monitoring and review

This policy has been reviewed and approved by the teaching staff and leadership teams at GEMS Founders School, Dubai for implementation.

Signed ..... Date ..... 22 February 2025 ....
School Doctor

Signed ..... Date ..... 22 February2025. ....
Manager School Operations

Signed ..... Date ..... 22 February 2026. ....
Executive Principal/CEO/GEMS Executive Vice President- Education

Next policy review date:
August 2026