



ARCHBISHOP ILSLEY

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

"Let Your Light Shine"

Victoria Road, Acocks Green, Birmingham, B27 7XY

Tel: 0121 706 4200

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Headteacher: Mr Ciaran Clinton

St Teresa of Calcutta
MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

Date: 08/12/2025

Dear parent/guardian

Re: Cases of Mumps at Archbishop Ilsley School

We have been informed that there are 3 suspected/confirmed cases of mumps at Archbishop Ilsley school. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has provided the following advice. Mumps is a very infectious viral disease. This letter is to give you some information about the disease and how it can be prevented.

Symptoms of mumps

Painful swelling of glands in the side of the face and under the ears

Headaches, joint pain and a high temperature – which may develop a few days before the swollen glands

It's important to contact the GP surgery if your child has symptoms. Let your GP know in advance if you're going to the surgery, so they can take any necessary precautions to prevent the spread of infection. If the GP diagnoses mumps, your child must stay at home for 5 days after the onset of swelling, and they are well enough to return to school.

How mumps is spread

Mumps is spread in the same way as colds and flu: through infected droplets of saliva that can be inhaled or picked up from surfaces and transferred into the mouth or nose. A person is most contagious a few days before the symptoms develop, and for a few days afterwards. During this time, it's important to prevent the infection spreading to others, particularly teenagers and young adults who have not been vaccinated with the MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccine.

How to prevent spread of mumps

1. regularly wash hands with soap and warm water
2. use disposable tissues when sneezing and blowing the nose, and dispose of them in the bin – washing hands afterwards

Diagnosing mumps

Mumps can be confirmed in the laboratory by testing a sample of saliva from the mouth. If your GP suspects mumps, they can contact the local UKHSA Health Protection Team, who will arrange for a test kit to be sent to you in the post. The test kit will enable you to do the test for yourself.



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Protecting against mumps

You can protect yourself against mumps by making sure you have received two doses of the combined MMR vaccine (for measles, mumps and rubella). The MMR vaccine is part of the routine NHS childhood immunisation schedule, it is free, and is the best protection against mumps. Some people may still get mumps after they have received two doses of MMR, but they get a much milder illness and are less likely to suffer from any complications. Anyone who did not have both doses of the MMR vaccine as a child can contact their GP to arrange to be vaccinated.

Further information on mumps can be found on the NHS website:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/mumps/>

Yours faithfully

Rachel Lloyd

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