

BLACKTHORN HEALTH CENTRE

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To Whom It May Concern,

We have noticed a rapid increase in requests from Parents / Guardians for letters written by GPs for issues in school, such as requests for toilet passes and uniform exemptions.

Many of these requests do not pertain to an actual medical issue and may lead to situations that are damaging for the individual pupil. It could be said that the need to use the bathroom for a legitimate purpose, as well as appropriate clothing in warmer weather is a basic human right. If there is a concern regarding inappropriate use of the bathroom or issues regarding school image and uniform then this is clearly an issue between the school, the child and the Parent / Guardian. This does not need to involve a medical professional especially when there is no clear medical diagnosis on the medical record that would necessitate any further information being required.

As you are aware, demand in General Practice has increased significantly over the last few months and we simply do not have the capacity to be involved in these sorts of unnecessary and excessive requests. There is no contractual requirement to undertake this work and is an unnecessary waste of GP and Parent / Guardian's time.

Going forward, we will only issue letters for specific medical related issues (that we have records of) and would politely request that some common sense is applied in all situations to minimise these requests. A GP letter request should be the last resort. If there are ongoing long-term problems then the school should arrange for an appropriate Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP) or Individual Health Care Plan (IHCP). Where appropriate we will then collaborate with the school (and any other agencies) to establish these plans.

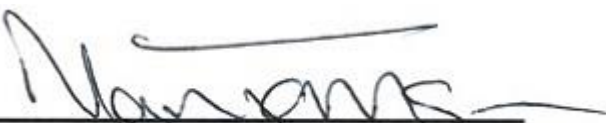
Any issue regarding a uniform exemption, etc. should be a discussion between the school and the Parent / Guardian and does not require any GP input.

If we receive any inappropriate requests from Parents / Guardians we will advise them to contact the leadership team at the school to discuss their enquiry further.

For more information regarding this matter, please go to the link below.
www.blackthornhealthcentre.co.uk/school-letters

Thank you in advance for your help and cooperation.

Best wishes and Kind regards,



Dr. Mark Tomson