



MANAGING CHILDREN WHO ARE SICK OR INFECTIOUS POLICY

Policy Statement

We provide care for healthy children and promote health through preventing cross infection of viruses and bacterial infections. We aim to make children, parents and staff aware of the importance of practising good hygiene to minimise the risk of spreading infection.

Parents are required to keep their child at home if they are ill or have any infection. Parents should inform the pre-school as to the nature of the illness or infection so that other parents can be alerted and make careful observations of any child who seems unwell. We will refuse admittance to a child who has a temperature, sickness or diarrhoea, or a contagious infection or disease.

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Please follow the latest public health advice and current government guidelines. If your child or a member of your household has COVID-19 or has symptoms of COVID-19, please contact us before bringing your child into pre-school so that we can discuss the best course of action with you.

Procedures for Children who are Sick or Infectious

- We follow the “Guidance of infection control in schools and other childcare settings” published by Public Health England (PHE). Parents are required to adhere to the guidance given in respect of excludable rashes, infections, diarrhoea and vomiting illnesses, respiratory infections and other infections listed in this document together with their current exclusion times. The full list is obtainable from the Pre-School Supervisor and includes common childhood illnesses such as measles and chicken pox.
- If a parent has found the need to administer Calpol, Nurofen or an equivalent medicine to their child, parents are required to keep their child at home and monitor their condition.
- We may only administer medicine prescribed by a child’s GP. Please see our separate “Administering Medicines Policy”.
 - When a child has been prescribed antibiotics, parents are required to keep them at home for 48 hours before returning to pre-school.
 - Unwell children of pre-school staff will not accompany their parents to work in the pre-school.



MANAGING CHILDREN WHO ARE SICK OR INFECTIOUS POLICY **(continued)**

Diarrhoea and Vomiting

- Parents must keep their child away from pre-school for at least 48 hours from the last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting.
- Parents must also report if their child has diarrhoea or vomiting to a member of staff so that we can make other parents aware. This is done confidentially and no names are mentioned. Please look for our sign on our outside pre-school door which will notify you if we have any cases.

Conjunctivitis

Current government guidance states that exclusion from pre-school is not necessary if a child has conjunctivitis. Bacterial conjunctivitis usually resolves on its own in most cases. Parents should allow symptoms to resolve before seeking antibiotics from their GP or purchasing antibiotic eye drops from pharmacy. Parents are advised to treat their child using sterile salt water and cotton wool, wiping each eye from inside to outside, using a clean piece of cotton wool for each eye.

Head Lice and Nits

- Head lice are a common problem in children and they are largely harmless but can live in hair for a long time if not properly treated and can be irritating and frustrating to deal with.
- Exclusion from pre-school is generally not necessary for a child with this condition as it is unlikely to help prevent the spread of head lice. However, if a child is found to have head lice, it is important for parents to begin treatment straightaway and before the child returns to pre-school. Prompt treatment action is requested so that we reduce the risk of head lice being passed on to others.
- Parents must also report if their child has head lice to a member of staff so that we can make other parents aware. This is done confidentially and no names are mentioned. Please look for our sign on our outside pre-school door which will notify you if we have any infestations.
- It is the parent's responsibility to check their child's hair regularly and treat it as soon as possible if any head lice are found. Please note that staff are unable to check through a child's hair for you in case of head lice dropping off on to clothes, toys or their own hair.



MANAGING CHILDREN WHO ARE SICK OR INFECTIOUS POLICY **(continued)**

Procedures for Children who are Unwell at Pre-School

- If a child appears unwell during a session at pre-school - for example, has a temperature, sickness, diarrhoea or pains, particularly in the head or stomach - the parents are called and asked to collect their child straightaway, or to send a known carer to collect on their behalf.
- A child's temperature is taken and checked regularly using a 'fever scan' kept near to the first aid box.
- If a child has a temperature, they are kept cool by removing top clothing and given a drink but are kept away from draughts.
- In extreme cases of emergency, the child is taken to the nearest hospital and the parent is informed.

Unwell Children upon Arrival to Pre-School

- On arrival, it is vital that parents inform a member of staff if they notice their child may be showing signs of being unwell. It is the responsibility of the parents to ensure their child does not attend pre-school if they are not fit to; this is a precautionary measure to prevent other children or staff from becoming ill.
- If a child is brought into the pre-school with a non-prescription medication to treat a temporary illness or appears to show signs of being unwell, the parents will be asked to take the child home.

Infection control for bodily fluids – transmissible viruses

- Viruses such as Hepatitis, (A, B and C), are spread through body fluids. Hygiene precautions for dealing with body fluids are the same for all children and adults. Transmittable viruses are spread through bodily fluids. Hygiene measures are put in place to protect all staff and children/young people. These include:
- Single use vinyl gloves and aprons are worn when changing children's nappies, pants and clothing that are soiled with blood, urine, faeces or vomit.
- Protective rubber gloves are used for cleaning/sluicing clothing after changing.
- Soiled clothing is rinsed and bagged for parents/carers to collect.
- Spills of blood, urine, faeces or vomit are cleared using mild disinfectant solution and designated area mops; cloths used are disposed of with clinical waste.



MANAGING CHILDREN WHO ARE SICK OR INFECTIOUS POLICY **(continued)**

- Tables, other furniture or toys/resources affected by blood, urine, faeces or vomit are removed where possible and cleaned using disinfectant. For larger items such as furniture, these must be cleaned immediately with disinfectant.
- All toys/resources are cleaned regularly. As a minimum, this should be carried out weekly, using sterilising solution for plastic toys/resources.

Handwashing

Handwashing is a crucial infection control measure which reduces the spread of illness. Adults, children and young people should regularly wash their hands, and increase this where there is an infection outbreak. This should be carried out by all:

- After outside breaks
- Before meals and snack times
- Before preparation of snack and meals
- After using the toilet
- After nappy or clothing changes
- After the removal of personal protective equipment (PPE), including gloves.
- After blowing noses
- Before and after administering medication

Public Health England advises that children and staff should be encouraged to catch sneezes with a tissue, bin the tissue and wash their hands.

Notifiable diseases and infection control

- If we suspect a child (young person or adult) who falls ill whilst in their care is suffering from a serious disease that may have been contracted in the United Kingdom or abroad, immediate medical assessment is required. The manager or deputy will call 111 and inform parents / carers.
- Preventative measures are taken to reduce the risk of an outbreak returning. When an individual shows signs of an infectious illness, they are required not to attend pre-school. If a child is already at the setting, they will be made comfortable in a space away from the other children to rest until they are able to be collected. The importance of thorough handwashing will be reiterated, and we will promote the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach with children and young people.



MANAGING CHILDREN WHO ARE SICK OR INFECTIOUS POLICY **(continued)**

- In the case of an outbreak of a notifiable disease which has been confirmed by a medical professional, the manager will seek further advice from the UKHSA, if not already contacted by them.
- The setting manager has a list of notifiable diseases (see below) and contacts the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) or Ofsted in the event of an outbreak.

Preventative Measures

- We display posters to encourage good practice of hygiene and to promote infection control.
- We ensure that the hygiene requirements of our “Health and Safety Policy” are adhered to.
- We ask parents to keep any child with symptoms of an infectious disease at home until they are clear of the symptoms.
- We advise anyone who thinks they may have been in contact with an infectious disease to seek medical advice.

Setting Closure

We will close the setting if advised to do so by the local authority in the interests of safeguarding children in our care or if we have too few unaffected staff to run the session safely. In the event of closure, we would follow our “Emergency Closure of Setting policy”.

“Notifications of Infectious Diseases” (NOIDs)

- We regularly update our information and keep a list of diseases which are notifiable under the “Notifications of Infectious Diseases” (NOIDs) by checking the latest guidance from Public Health England (PHE) and the local authority. This information is passed on to staff and parents.
- If a child or adult is diagnosed suffering from a notifiable disease under these regulations, the GP will report this to the local authority who in turn notify PHE.
- When the pre-school becomes aware, or is formally informed of the notifiable disease, the Pre-School Supervisor informs Ofsted and acts on any advice given by PHE.