



Infection Control

EYFS: 3.44, 3.45, 3.46

We promote the good health of all children attending through maintaining high hygiene standards and reducing the chances of infection being spread. We follow the health protection in schools and other childcare facilities guidance¹ which sets out when and how long children need to be excluded from settings, when treatment/medication is required and where to get further advice from.

Viruses and infections can be easily passed from person to person by breathing in air containing the virus which is produced when an infected person talks, coughs or sneezes. It can also spread through hand/face contact after touching a person or surface contaminated with viruses.

We follow the guidance below to prevent a virus or infection from spreading around the nursery. Our staff:

- Encourage all children to use tissues when coughing and sneezing to catch germs
- Ensure all tissues are disposed of in a hygienic way and all children and staff wash their hands once the tissue is disposed of
- Develop children's understanding of the above and the need for good hygiene procedures in helping them to stay healthy
- Wear the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when changing nappies, toileting children and dealing with any other bodily fluids. Staff are requested to dispose of these in the appropriate manner and wash hands immediately
- Clean and sterilise all potties and changing mats before and after each use
- Clean toilets at least daily and check them throughout the day
- Remind children to wash their hands with soap and water before eating, after visiting the toilet, playing outside, moving from room to room or being in contact with any animal and explain the reasons for this
- Clean all toys, equipment and resources on a regular basis by following a comprehensive cleaning rota and using antibacterial cleanser, or through washing in the dish washer or washing machine (in the local launderette)
- Wash or clean all equipment used by toddlers as and when needed, including when the children have placed it in their mouth
- Follow the sickness and illness policy when children are ill to prevent the spread of any infection in the nursery. Staff are also requested to stay at home if they are contagious.

In addition:

- The nursery manager retains the right of refusal of all children, parents, staff and visitors who are deemed contagious and may impact on the welfare of the rest of the nursery
- Parents will be made aware of the need for these procedures in order for them to follow these guidelines whilst in the nursery
- Periodically each room in the nursery will be deep cleaned including carpets and soft furnishings to ensure the spread of infection is limited. This will be implemented earlier if the need arises
- In the event of an infection outbreak the nursery will, where appropriate, undertake a deep clean to ensure the spread of infection is contained

¹<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities>



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- We will follow Government health guidance, as well as seeking legal advice and information from our insurers, on any national outbreak of a virus/ pandemic and keep parents informed of any course of action. Each specific circumstance will differ and to ensure we take the most appropriate action; we will treat each case on an individual basis
- In addition, where contagious outbreaks occur, we will adopt Government guidance for all visitors to minimise the risk of further spreading of the infection
- The nursery will ensure stocks of tissues, hand washing equipment, cleaning materials and sterilising fluid are maintained at all times. These will be increased during the winter months, or when flu and cold germs are circulating.

Covid 19 System of Control

Current Situation

On 21st February 2022 the Prime Minister set out the next phase of the Government's COVID-19 response. COVID-19 continues to be a virus that we learn to live with and the imperative to reduce disruption to children's education remains.

The priority is to deliver face-to-face, high-quality education and care to all children. The evidence is clear that being out of education causes significant harm to educational attainment, life chances, mental and physical health and presents safeguarding risks.

Responsibilities of Early Years Providers

We are responsible for the following:

- Safeguarding- local agencies, services and settings should work together to actively look for signs of harm given the greater risk of harm that some children may have been exposed to through COVID – 19
- Supporting children's learning, development and wellbeing- continue to follow the early years foundation stage (EYFS) statutory framework.
- Supporting vulnerable children.

Testing Positive

If staff or children test positive then it is 5 days isolation and a negative test on day 6 before they can return back to in the setting.

Local Outbreaks

We continue to have contingency plans outlining how we would operate if we needed to take extra measures in exceptional circumstances. Given the detrimental impact that restrictions on education can have on children, any measures will only ever be considered as a last resort, kept to the minimum number of children possible, and for the shortest amount of time possible.

Staff shortages due to sickness or self-isolation

We as a setting will work with our local authority to identify how appropriate provision can be put in place while keeping staffing arrangements as consistent.

Control measures

We will:

- Ensure good hygiene for everyone.
- Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.
- Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
- Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.



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Hand hygiene

Frequent and thorough hand cleaning is now regular practice. We will continue to ensure that children clean their hands regularly. This can be done with soap and water or hand sanitiser.

Respiratory hygiene

The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach continues to be very important.

Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes, using standard products such as detergents.

We have in place and maintain an appropriate cleaning schedule. This includes regular cleaning of areas and equipment with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces.

| This policy was adopted on | Signed on behalf of the nursery | Date for review |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| 7/5/2021 | R Harte | May 2022 Reviewed and updated 07/03/2022 |