



COVID-19 Policy

We aim to make the pre-school environment a safe one for children, families and staff. In order to do this, we plan to introduce new protocols and ways of working to ensure that children, families and staff are protected and are able to enjoy a secure, happy and productive time at pre-school.

Preparing and Maintaining the Premises

Before re-opening, a health and safety check of the building and garden and a deep clean of the kitchen and toilets will have been carried out.

A detailed risk assessment will have been produced.

All health and safety compliance checks and a daily process will be in place.

All other equipment and resources will be thoroughly cleaned, following the government's guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings>

Unnecessary items will be removed from the learning environment and stored elsewhere.

Soft toys, carpets, cushions, dressing-up and toys that are hard to clean (such as those with intricate parts) will be removed.

Infection Protection

We will ensure that children and adults wash their hands more often than usual. This will be for at least 20 seconds with running water and soap before drying thoroughly or using hand sanitiser, ensuring that all parts of the hand are covered. Young children will be supported to ensure this is done effectively.

As a minimum, children will wash their hands-on arrival at the setting, before and after eating, after using the toilet and before being collected.

Surfaces that children and adults are touching, such as toys, books, tables, chairs, doors, sinks, toilets, light switches will be cleaned more regularly than normal, using standard products, e.g. detergents.

Soiled materials and PPE equipment will be disposed of safely.

We will ensure there is good respiratory hygiene, promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.

Children will be encouraged not to touch their mouth, eyes and nose and to use a tissue.

Staff will reinforce these habits through games, songs and repetition.

All spaces will be kept well ventilated by having windows opened.

There will be sufficient hand washing facilities available, i.e. soap, water and hand sanitiser in the entrance, hall, toilets and outdoor area.

We plan to use the outdoor area as much as possible.

Stocks of soap, anti-bacterial gel, cleaning products and PPE will be monitored and replenished.

We will minimise contact and mixing, as much as possible, by altering the environment, such as the room layout and routines.

We ask that children and staff members change their clothing daily.

We will emphasise that individuals or those who have someone in their household, unwell with coronavirus symptoms, must not attend the setting.

Drop-off and collection

In order to minimise risk and contact between adults, we aim to stagger start and finish times.

We request that only 1 parent/carer bring and collect the child and that they remain outside until a staff member takes their child into the setting or brings them out when it is time to go home.

We would ask all adults to maintain social distancing when dropping/collecting children.

We advise that public transport is not used to bring children to or from pre-school.

Group size and cohorts of children

Early years children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff. The setting will take this into account. We can reduce transmission risk by ensuring children and staff, where possible, only mix in a small, consistent group and that the small group stays away from other people and groups.

Public Health England (PHE) is clear that if early years settings do this, and crucially if they are applying regular hand cleaning, hygiene and cleaning measures and handling potential cases of the virus as per the advice, then the risk of transmission will be lowered.

We will aim to keep these groups 2 metres away from each other. However, brief, transitory contact, such as passing in a corridor is low risk.

We plan to split children into small groups (preferably of no more than 8 children). The children will remain in these groups at all times each day. Different groups will not be mixed during the day or on subsequent days.

The same staff will be assigned to each group so that they form a protective 'bubble' and do not mix with other children or adults during the session.

The use of outdoor equipment will be limited to one group until it has been cleaned following their use.

The same child ratios within the Early Years Foundation Stage continue to apply.

Each group will have their own toys, equipment and resources and this will be cleaned daily. Certain resources, e.g. pencils, paint brushes, glue sticks, scissors will be given to individual children and not shared by the rest of their group.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including Face Coverings and Face Masks

Wearing a face covering or face mask is not recommended in an early years setting. Cleaning and hygiene are effective measures in controlling the spread of the virus.

Early Years staff do not require PPE beyond our normal use, e.g. nappy changing, cleaning up spills, bodily fluid, etc. except when there is a suspected case of coronavirus*.

Responding to a suspected case of coronavirus (See also Appendix A)

Anyone who displays symptoms of coronavirus will be sent home immediately and be advised to follow government guidelines about what to do if you or someone in your household develops symptoms (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>).

*If a child is awaiting collection, we will separate them from the group and isolate them with one member of staff. A face mask, apron and gloves will be worn by the member of staff, as well as eye protection if there is risk to the eyes, e.g. through coughing.

Once the child or staff member has left the setting, we will ensure affected areas are disinfected and PPE and other waste are disposed of safely.

Testing for children and staff

All children, staff and members of their households will have access to testing if they display symptoms of coronavirus. They will be able to return if the test proves to be negative.

Testing can be accessed via <https://www.nhs.uk/...ask-for-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus>. Priority is available for essential workers, children and other adults living with them.

Appendix A

Managing Children who are sick or infectious with a suspected case of COVID-19.

- If a child presents with symptoms, parents will be requested to collect the child and follow the government guidelines –
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>
- The parents should arrange for a test via <https://www.nhs/...ask-for-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus>.
- The child's parents are requested to inform the setting of the outcome/diagnosis and keep the child at home for the recommended exclusion period. Other members of the household also have to self-isolate for the recommended period.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>
- For confirmed cases of Coronavirus, the setting will contact the local Health Protection Team (HPT)* as soon as possible for further guidance. The Manager will inform the RSG Committee and retain a confidential record.
- Acting on the advice of the local HPT, we will, either close for a set period and undertake a deep clean or, carry on as usual but also undertake a deep clean.
- Coronavirus is treated as a notifiable disease and Ofsted will be informed within 14 days.
- A deep clean will be undertaken at the earliest opportunity following any illness outbreak. Hand hygiene messages will be reinforced, and staff reminded to be vigilant to any further signs of infection.
- The Manager will continue to liaise with the HPT as required and keep a full record of children affected, how long they are away from the setting and the date on which they will return.

*Local Health Protection Team for Bromley:

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Public Health England
Zone C
3rd Floor
Skipton House
80 London Road
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