



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, toilets and communal areas 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 government 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.

Items that are difficult to clean, such as soft furnishings, 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, or have them sanitized, 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, and 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, weather permitting.

There will be sufficient hand washing facilities available, i.e. soap, water, and hand sanitiser in the 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 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

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.

Current guidance allows all the children to be in contact with each other, and with all staff. Staff will observe social distancing from each other.

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.

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

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.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

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