



COVID-19 POLICY

We aim to make the pre-school environment a safe one for children, families, staff and visiting professionals. In order to do this, we plan to implement 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.

Maintaining the premises

Health and safety checks of the building and garden and cleaning of the kitchen, toilets and communal areas are regularly carried out.

Health and safety compliance checks and a daily process are in place.

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, tables, chairs, doors, sinks, toilets, etc. are 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.

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 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 someone in your household develops symptoms (<https://www.gov.uk/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 a 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.

Contingency plan

In the event that 5 individuals or 10% of children or staff who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10 day period, we will take extra action.

The plan will be implemented by the Pre-school leader or Deputy and all families will be informed by e-mail and/or the pre-school App.

Extra action

We will review and reinforce testing procedures.

We will look at ways to improve ventilation and review cleaning regimes.

If we are concerned about the level of transmission, we will seek additional public health advice, either by phoning the DfE helpline (0800 046 8687, option 1) or in line with other local arrangements.

Attendance restrictions will only be considered as a short-term measure and as a last resort and contact will be maintained remotely with families in this instance.

Further details can be accessed via the following links:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-local-restrictions-in-education-and-childcare-settings>