

Section 2: Health and Safety

25b. Coronavirus (Covid-19)

Policy for the Management of Coronavirus (Covid-19) – Updated September 2021

Aim

Our aim is to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) for our nursery children, their families and the Nursery staff by minimising the risks and keeping everyone safe. We have worked very closely with DfE, Essex County Council, Early Years Alliance and United Synagogue to ensure that we can fulfil this aim.

The prevalence of the virus continues. The NHS Test and Trace system is up and running and there is more understanding about the measures that need to be in place to create a safer environment within the nursery during the ongoing pandemic.

The government are moving away from stringent restrictions on everyone's day-to-day lives, towards advising people on how to protect themselves and others to reduce risk. The scientific evidence shows that the coronavirus presents a much lower risk to children than adults of becoming severely ill, and there is no evidence that children transmit the disease any more than adults. However, there are still risks while COVID-19 remains in the community.

To manage the risks we have put in place a range of protective measures to help reduce the hazards, and thus endeavour to keep everyone safe.

Procedures and Control Measures

To minimise the spread of the virus and its transmission, we will put a 'system of controls' (protective measures) in place. It is important that all of our staff and all of our families understand, support and apply these controls. These systems of controls refer to Prevention & Response to Any Infection. At nursery we will adopt the 'system of controls' set out below in a robust way thus ensuring there are proportionate safeguards for children as well as staff and consequently reduce the chance of transmission.

- Safeguarding -- Our nursery will work together to actively look for signs of harm or neglect given the greater risk of harm that some children may have been exposed to through COVID-19 as well as supporting vulnerable children. Additional safe guarding training for staff will be offered regularly.
- We will manage any confirmed cases of the virus in the nursery in line with current DfE and public health guidance.
- We will seek public health advice if a child or staff member is admitted to hospital with COVID-19 by calling the DfE helpline (0800 046 8687, option 1).
- We will minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that children who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms do not attend nursery.
- Anyone who develops symptoms during the nursery day will be sent home immediately. When a child is awaiting collection, they will be moved to a well ventilated room where they can be isolated with appropriate adult supervision. If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they will be taken to a separate bathroom and the bathroom will be cleaned and disinfected before being used by anyone else. PPE must be worn by staff caring for the child while they await collection.
- If anyone at nursery has symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) - a high temperature, new and persistent cough or a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), however mild, they should take a PCR test. They should avoid using public transport and, wherever possible, be collected by a member of their family or household.
- It has been recommended that the nursery no longer require bubbles.
- NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case to identify close contacts.

Contacts from a setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case and/or their parents or carer specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact.

1. Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case and any of the following apply:
 - They are fully vaccinated
 - They are below the age of 18 years 6 months
 - They have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 Vaccine trial
 - They are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons
2. Instead of self-isolation, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test.
3. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so as the Nursery may have staff members unvaccinated.
4. Children who are aged under 5 years old who are identified as close contacts will be advised to take a PCR test if the positive case is in their own household.
5. Staff who do not need to self-isolate, and children who usually attend the setting, and have been identified as a close contact, should continue to attend the setting as normal providing a PCR test is negative.

Control Measures

- The Coronavirus is an easy virus to kill when it is on the skin. This can be done with soap and running water or hand sanitiser. Therefore, we will ensure that everyone cleans their hands more often than usual, including when they arrive in the morning, when they return from breaks, and before and after eating - this will be done for 20 seconds with soap and running water and then hands will be dried thoroughly. If handwashing facilities are unavailable we will use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered.
- We will promote the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach, to ensure good respiratory hygiene and will ensure that we have enough tissues and covered bins available in the nursery to support children and staff to implement this routine. We will ensure that the younger children are helped to get this right, and all children understand that this is now part of how the nursery operates
- We will ensure that enhanced cleaning is undertaken, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces more often
- In order to facilitate cleaning, we have removed unnecessary items from learning environments. Public health advice is to remove all soft toys, and any toys that are hard to clean, for example pillows, bean bags, dressing up clothes and rugs. There will be no shared messy activities, for example, playdough, sand and water play etc.
- We will promote good ventilation in all areas of the nursery, and as much as possible windows and doors will be kept open at all times
- We will aim to use the playground as much as possible, weather permitting. All outdoor equipment will be wiped down after play
- We will ensure that there are clear procedures for maintaining cleaning processes for food preparation areas and eating areas
- Where necessary staff will wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)
- We will keep parents updated
- We will keep track of the health of staff and pupils.

Response to any infection:

- We will engage with the NHS Test and Trace process
- We will manage confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the setting community
- We will contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice
- We will notify Ofsted of any closures

Cleaning

All play equipment will be appropriately cleaned and disinfected between groups of children using it, and we will ensure that multiple groups do not use it simultaneously. Additional attention will be given to all frequently touched areas like light switches and door handles. Lidded bins will be used, which will be emptied regularly and the waste disposed of safely.

Additional Protective Measures

We ask parents to follow the list below of additional protective measures, to ensure sound hygiene procedures are maintained:

- The children are asked to come into nursery with fresh, clean clothes daily
- For any children who have a comforter or soft toy that they will be upset if they don't have, we ask parents to bring one that can remain at nursery
- Children are asked to not bring in any toys from home
- Please bring in a bag of spare named clothes for your child. This bag will remain on your child's peg in nursery.
Please replenish any items as they are used. Updates will be conveyed in Blue Diaries.
- Please keep your child away from nursery if they are showing any signs of any illness, especially covid-19
- In hot weather please apply sun cream before nursery, ensure named hats (Legionnaires) are supplied and children's shoulders are covered
- Parents are encouraged to send their child to one setting consistently. This is also the same for staff

Public Health England (PHE) is clear that if early year's settings do this, and crucially if they are also 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.

Testing

Testing remains important in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within settings. That is why, while some measures are relaxed, others will remain, and if necessary, in response to the latest epidemiological data, we will need to be prepared to step measures up or down in future depending on local circumstances.

Early years staff should undertake twice weekly home tests whenever they are on site and record the results.

Early years children are not included in the rapid testing programme.

Parent /carer Access into the Nursery

Where possible we are avoiding any visitors entering the nursery buildings. This excludes first time visits for new starters. Parents are required to sanitise upon entering and required to wear a mask during their visit. Parents and carers are only permitted into the nursery in essential situations, and this is only with the express permission of a member of staff. We ask that ideally the children are dropped off and collected at their classroom door. We request that all adults wear a face covering when meeting with staff.

Parents are asked to call ahead if they are going to be late for nursery or need to pick up their child early.

Other Synagogue Users

It is for the Office Administrators and Honorary Officers to inform the nursery head or deputy head of any authorized persons, activities, maintenance, cleaning companies etc., permitted during the pandemic period and when. The Nursery reserve the right to refuse access to anyone not expected. Other authorized users of the premises have the responsibility to thoroughly clean all the areas used after use. However we will give additional attention to all frequently touched areas like light switches and door handles before opening the nursery each day. We have requested that no other users of the building enter or leave the building during the children's drop off and collection times. The caretaker and security guard will be on the premises and they will remain at least 1 metre from parents/children/staff to maintain social distancing unless in emergency. The Security guard will ensure parents do not congregate.

Staff

Upon arrival on site, staff should either wash their hands or sanitise them before entering the nursery.

PPE

The staff will use normal day to day PPE when they handle food, take children to the toilet and administer first aid. This may include masks, gloves, aprons and visors and we will ensure that there are ample supplies should a child fall ill.

Kitchen Area & Office Equipment

Use of the kitchen will be kept to a minimum, and all work surfaces will be cleaned before and after use. When handling food staff must wear necessary PPE. Door handles, light switches etc. to be wiped with disinfectant regularly.

Toileting

Different classes of children do not need to be allocated their own toilets, but toilets will be cleaned regularly, and the children will be encouraged to clean their hands thoroughly after using the toilet. The staff will wear regular PPE when they take the children to the toilet or change any soiled clothing or nappies.

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
24/09/2021	Melanie Kaye	24/09/2023