



## 5.6 Sickness Policy

Children should not be brought to nursery if they are unwell. If a child is unwell then they will prefer to be at home with their parent(s) rather than at nursery with their peers. We will follow these procedures to ensure the welfare of all children within the nursery:

### Medication

If you have administered **ANY** medication in last 24 hours, please inform us when dropping your child off.

For illness that requires antibiotics the child must take the first 48-hour dosage before returning to nursery to ensure there is no adverse reaction.

If a child becomes ill during the nursery day, their parent(s) will be contacted and asked to pick their child up as soon as possible. During this time, the child will be cared for in a quiet, calm area.

### Coronavirus

If a child displays symptoms of Covid 19 whilst at Nursery – for example (but not limited to) a temperature of 37.6 or above or a continuous new cough. They will be taken to isolation area by a member of their room staff, and you will be contacted immediately to collect them.

As per Government guidance (below)

*In most cases, parents and carers will agree that a child with the key symptoms of COVID-19 should not attend the setting, given the potential risk to others. If a parent or carer insists on a child attending your setting where they have a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19, you can take the decision to refuse the child if, in your reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other children and staff from possible infection with COVID-19.*

If your child has either a suspected or confirmed case of Covid-19, the Nursery request that you keep your child at home for at least 5 days to protect other children and staff.



## General Illness

Your child can return to nursery when:

- **Colds and Flu:** They do not require frequent nose wiping, have a normal temperature, and feel fit and healthy
- **Sickness and diarrhoea,** there has been at least 48 hours since the last instance.
- **Chicken Pox:** All spots must be covered in dry scabs.
- **Conjunctivitis:** Eyes should be free of discharge for at least 24 hours
- **Impetigo:** Medical advice must be sought, and sores must have cleared up.
- **Hand, foot and Mouth:** Rash and Spots are to have fully cleared up
- **Slap Cheek:** can return to nursery once the rash has faded.
- **Head Lice:** parents will be contacted via telephone and asked to collect their child so that treatment can commence as soon as possible. All parents are requested to regularly check their children's hair. If a parent finds that their child has head lice, we would be grateful if they could inform the nursery so that other parents can be alerted to check their child's hair.
- **Measles:** Rash should have gone and child acting normally
- **Temperature:** the estimated normal temperature for a child is approx. 37c. If a child's temperature exceeds 37.6c. or drops below 36.5c parents will be contacted.
- **Unknown Rashes:** Medical advice should be taken and a doctor's note informing the nursery that the condition is not contagious should be supplied

**Information/posters** about all illnesses are readily available and will be displayed within the nursery.

It is vital that we follow the advice given to us by our registering authority and exclude specific contagious conditions, e.g., sickness and diarrhoea, conjunctivitis, and chicken pox to protect other children in the nursery. Illnesses of this nature are very contagious, and it is exceedingly unfair to expose other children to the risk of an infection.

If a contagious infection is identified in the nursery, parents will be informed to enable them to spot the early signs of this illness. All equipment and resources that may have come into contact with a contagious child will be cleaned and sterilised thoroughly to reduce the spread of infection.



It is important that children are not subjected to the strains and stresses of the nursery day, which requires socialising with other children and being part of a group setting, when they have first become ill and require a course of antibiotics. Our policy, therefore, is to exclude children on antibiotics for the first 48 hours of the course.

The nursery has the right to refuse admission to a child who is unwell. This decision will be taken by a Senior Member of staff on duty and is non-negotiable.

If a child shows signs of diarrhoea, the first time the parents will be contacted to find out if the child has been ill overnight, on the second occurrence the parents will be contacted to collect the child.

### **Meningitis procedure**

If a parent informs the nursery that their child has meningitis, the nursery manager should contact the Infection Control (IC) Nurse for their area, and Ofsted. The IC Nurse will give guidance and support in each individual case. If parents do not inform the nursery, we will be contacted directly by the IC Nurse and the appropriate support will be given.

### **Transporting children to hospital procedure**

- If the incident is severe, call for an ambulance immediately.
- Whilst waiting for the ambulance, contact the parent or emergency contact to come and meet at the Nursery.
- A senior member of staff must accompany the child if appropriate and only if parent/contact cannot get to the Nursery in time. If the staff member is required to go with the child then they must collect together registration forms, relevant medication sheets, medication and the child's comforter.
- If the incident does not require an ambulance the parents must be contacted, and a decision made about what the next course of action should be.
- Remain calm at all times and ensure that any children. Children who witness an incident may well be affected by it and may need lots of cuddles and reassurance.

Internal use only

<b>This policy was adopted on</b>	<b>Date for review</b>
31.01.2018	February 2023