

## **12.12 Coronavirus (Covid 19)**

### **Policy statement**

As a childcare provider, we take health and safety at our Preschool extremely seriously. Considering the current outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) we have put together the following information, all of which is based on DfE advice for Early Years and Childcare settings and PHE advice for Educational Settings and we have adapted our practices and procedures to enable a fun but safe environment for the children and staff. We will be constantly reviewing our procedures and safety measures as we receive updates from Government agencies, and as we gradually welcome back increased numbers of children.

### **Procedures**

#### **How we will create a safe learning environment.**

- Through an initial deep clean, and subsequent increased regular cleaning throughout the day of toys, surfaces and regularly touched items such as door handles.
- We will be using 'bubbles' of staff and children with separate facilities, including toilet facilities.
- Regular, supervised handwashing will be actively encouraged on entering the setting and throughout the session. We will encourage children to catch coughs and sneezes in a tissue and discard the tissue afterwards as well as encouraging children not to touch their faces, rub their eyes or put items in their mouths.
- Parents and carers will not be admitted into the building to limit the number of people onsite, and children should not bring personal effects or toys in with them to reduce the risk of cross contamination.
- Toys will be restricted to those that can be easily cleaned or discarded after use.
- Temperatures of both staff and children will be taken on arrival and throughout the session if necessary.
- Rooms will be kept well ventilated with plenty of fresh air and weather permitting, outdoor play will be encouraged.
- If a child has an accident or requires help with toileting, this will be dealt with by a staff member wearing PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) including apron and gloves, as has been our practice for many years. In Early Years settings, staff and children are not required to wear face masks. Some of our staff may feel more comfortable wearing a face mask and we will support them in their right to do so.

## **If a child becomes unwell during a session.**

- Children should not attend if they or anyone in their household has a new continuous cough, high temperature or loss of sense of smell. (Please refer to the Government guidelines at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>)
- If a child develops symptoms while in the preschool, they will be taken to a separate area away from the other children by a member of staff wearing PPE, until they can be collected. Any child or staff member who becomes ill with these symptoms will be instructed to follow the government's advice: they must isolate for 7 days, and members of their household must isolate for 14 days.

## **Behaviour**

- We expect all children to behave in line with our behaviour policy however to enable the safety of all children and staff we reserve the right to send children home if they do not follow the guidance on handwashing or staying within their bubble. We also reserve the right to suspend a child's place if their parent or carer does not adhere to social distancing measures when picking up or dropping off children, is persistently late for their bubble's allotted time or engages in any other behaviour that puts our staff or children at risk.

## **Belongings permitted at Preschool**

- Children should have a change of clothes in a named bag and some indoor shoes. If it is sunny, any sun cream should be applied before they come in. This is to avoid non-essential contact by staff. Their indoor shoes will remain at preschool, as will their bag. Any 'refills' can be given to staff who will replenish the child's bag.
- Children will not be permitted to any personal belongings such as a lunchbox or any toys; drinks and snacks will be provided on site.

## **Entry and Exit to the Preschool**

- All children must walk around the side of the playground to access the Preschool. At no point should anyone cross the playground as the school premises are out of bounds. Only ONE parent or carer is permitted to bring and collect their child from Preschool at any one time.
- On arrival, parents/carers and children must maintain a safe 2 metre distance from any other children, parents/carers that are bringing their child to the Preschool. Children may be excited to see other children, but we must follow the government guidelines.

- Parent/Carers are NOT permitted in the Preschool building at any time. All communication must be done via telephone, email or text message.
- Following government guidelines, we strongly advise walking or cycling to school and not using public transport where possible.
- The gate will automatically open for entry to the Preschool and each child's bubble group leader will be ready to collect the children from their parent/carer.

This policy was adopted by \_\_\_\_\_ *(name of provider)*  
On \_\_\_\_\_ *(date)*  
Date to be reviewed \_\_\_\_\_ *(date)*  
Signed on behalf of the provider \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of signatory \_\_\_\_\_  
Role of signatory (e.g. chair, director or owner) \_\_\_\_\_