Little Stars Pre-school
at Emmanuel Church

Infection Control Policy

Purpose

This policy is designed to ensure that a safe, healthy environment in maintained at the Pre-school, and should be read in conjunction with:

- Food, Drink and Food Hygiene Policy
- Sickness and Illness Policy
- Coronavirus (Covid-19) Safe Operating Procedures/Policies for Re-opening Little Stars Preschool
- Health and Safety – General Policy

The policy sets out the actions we will take to prevent and control the spread of infections.

Background

An infection is the invasion and multiplication of micro-organisms such as bacteria, viruses, and parasites that are not normally present within the body. An infection may cause no symptoms and be subclinical, or it may cause symptoms and be clinically apparent.

Some infections are contagious and can be easily passed from person to person; through airborne transmission of micro-organisms which are produced when an infected person talks, coughs or sneezes, or through hand/face contact after touching a contaminated person or surface.

There are many infections, some more contagious than others. Contagious infections can include, but are not limited to:

- Chicken pox
- Covid19
- Head lice
- Influenza
- Measles
- Meningitis
- Mumps
- Norovirus
- Rubella
- Whooping cough

Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the manager and deputies to ensure that any children, parents, carers or staff who have a contagious illness are excluded from the Pre-school for the period recommended by PHE and / or local authorities for the illness, and to inform parents and carers and staff of any cases.

The manager should ensure that all staff are trained in and adopt infection control measures as their normal working practice

All staff are responsible for identifying any children who are unwell, either arriving at the Pre-school or during a session, and for initiating discussions between the management and the parents / carers as to whether the child should remain at nursery or go home.

All staff must ensure that they do not attend the pre-school if they have an infectious illness, or if, should PHE advise, they have had contact with an infectious person.

Parents and carers have the responsibility to ensure that both they and their children, do not attend the pre-school if they have an infectious illness or, for some infections, if they have had contact with an infectious person.

All staff are responsible that effective infection control measures including those set out in this policy are adopted and applied and that the children are encouraged to follow them where relevant e.g. washing hands.

Prevention and Control Actions

In order to prevent and control infections we will:

- Ensure good basic personal hygiene – in particular, making sure that staff and children wash their hands whenever they are obviously dirty and in the following circumstances:

  Before:
  - starting/finishing work
  - handling, preparing, serving or eating food
  - giving medication to a child or taking it yourself
  - using a computer keyboard
  - messy play activities such as dough, sand or water

  After:
  - touching anything that may be contaminated – including soiled clothing
  - contact with blood or bodily fluids
  - using the toilet or helping a child use the toilet or potty
  - changing nappies – even if gloves are worn
  - during an outbreak of diarrhoea and/or vomiting in the setting
  - blowing/wiping runny noses
  - any cleaning procedure
  - handling pets, pet cages or related items
  - outdoor play activities
  - after removing single-use or other protective gloves
- Ensure that any existing wounds or skin lesions are covered where possible and that activities such as preparing and serving food, play dough, clay, gloop, sand or water play are avoided by staff and children if they have open wounds on their hands. Lesions caused by skin conditions such as eczema may be particularly aggravated by such activities.

- Use appropriate single-use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – this includes aprons and gloves for nappy changing, cleaning up vomit or blood or any activity that involves the risk of contamination. PPE, when used appropriately, protects staff from germs and splashing, but also protects children from contamination from staff clothing. PPE is often single-use and boxes of single-use gloves or aprons are usually marked.
- Clean toys, equipment and the environment on a regular basis to prevent the spread of infection. Germs cannot thrive on clean, dry surfaces.
    - The cleaning schedule will cover the equipment and resources in each area, how often it is cleaned and by which method.
    - Staff must always be prepared to clean up as they go along, using disposable paper towels for spillages of blood and/or bodily fluids, wearing gloves and plastic aprons.
    - The frequency of these cleans will be increased during infection outbreaks. In some cases it may be necessary to close the pre-school while a deep clean takes place.
- Follow guidance for managing illness and infections – despite the best efforts of staff to prevent the spread of infection, it is inevitable that some children and staff will become ill because many infections are contagious before any obvious symptoms appear. As a general principle, children and adults with an infection should stay at home while they have symptoms or are feeling unwell.

  Parents are asked not to bring their children into Pre-school if:
    - They have any signs of being ill (e.g. if the child needs one to one attention)
    - They need or have taken Infant Paracetamol, Ibuprofen or Calpol
    - They have Conjunctivitis (if it has not been treated)
    - They have a high temperature or fever
    - They have Head Lice (if it has not been treated)
    - They have any infectious disease (not returning until after the prescribed period (see Minimum periods of exclusion from Pre-school at end of the Sickness and Illness policy)
    - If they suffer from Diarrhoea and / or vomiting. In this case Children must be kept away from Pre-school until they have had 48 hours without any symptoms. This will always mean a minimum of two days away from Pre-school.

In times of infectious outbreaks either within the pre-school or on a wider scale, we will take any necessary additional actions, following any guidance issued by PHE and / or Surrey Early Years.

Notification

As above, in all cases where it is observed that a child may be ill on arriving at pre-school or during a session, the parents / carers of the child will be informed.

Where there is potential that other children may have been in contact with a child who is infected, the parents of those children will be informed of that fact, but the confidentiality of the sick child will be maintained, e.g. if a child is found to have head lice, other parents will be informed to look out for signs of this in their own children.

If we have a reason to believe that any child is suffering from a notifiable disease identified as such in the Public Health (Infection Diseases) Regulations 1988, we will inform the parent/carer and Ofsted.

We will act on any advice given by the Health Protection Agency and inform Ofsted of any action taken.

All cases of infectious diseases within the Pre-school are recorded on an illness form which is signed by the parent / carer on collection of their child

If any parent or member of staff has concerns or questions about infection control procedures or individual routines, please see the manager at the earliest opportunity

Review / Version Control				
Review period - 3 years				
Version	Created	Reviewed	Initials	Changes
Infection Control Policy (v1.0)	03/2020		DH / AP	New policy
Infection Control Policy - Oct24 - v1.1	10/2024		DH AP	Changed template and version control. Reference to procedures for reopening post Covid19 pandemic removed.