



📍 Clay Lane, Beaminster, DT8 3EY

☎ 01308 863959

✉ manager@beaminsterpre-school.co.uk

🌐 www.beaminsterpre-school.co.uk

Managing Children who are Sick or Infectious Policy

Policy Statement

We provide care for healthy children and promote health through preventing cross infection of viruses and bacterial infections. We aim to make children, parents and staff aware of the importance of practising good hygiene to minimise the risk of spreading infection. Parents are asked to keep their child at home if they are ill or have any infection. Parents should inform the pre-school as to the nature of the illness or infection so that other parents can be alerted and make careful observations of any child who seems unwell. We will refuse admittance to a child who has a temperature, sickness or diarrhoea, or a contagious infection or disease.

Procedures for Children who are Sick or Infectious

We follow the "Guidance of infection control in schools and other childcare settings" published by Public Health England (PHE). Parents are asked to adhere to the guidance given in respect of excludable rashes, infections, diarrhoea and vomiting illnesses, respiratory infections and other infections listed in this document together with their current exclusion times. The full list is obtainable from the Pre-School Supervisor and includes common childhood illnesses such as measles and chicken pox. If a parent has found the need to administer Calpol, Nurofen or an equivalent medicine to their child, parents are requested to keep their child at home and monitor their condition.

We may only administer medicine prescribed by a child's GP. Please see our separate "Administering Medicines Policy".

When a child has been prescribed antibiotics, parents are asked to keep them at home for 48 hours before returning to Pre-school.

Unwell children of Pre-school staff will not accompany their parents to work in the Pre-school.

Diarrhoea and Vomiting

Parents must keep their child away from pre-school for at least 48 hours from the last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting.

Parents must also report if their child has diarrhoea or vomiting to a member of staff so that we can make other parents aware. This is done confidentially, and no names are mentioned.

Please look out for our sign on our outside pre-school door which will notify you if we have any cases.

Conjunctivitis

Current government guidance states that exclusion from pre-school is not necessary if a child has conjunctivitis. Bacterial conjunctivitis usually resolves on its own in most cases.

Parents should allow symptoms to resolve before seeking antibiotics from their GP or purchasing antibiotic eye drops from pharmacy. Parents are advised to treat their child using sterile salt water and cotton wool, wiping each eye from inside to outside, using a clean piece of cotton wool for each eye.

Head Lice and Nits

Head lice are a common problem in children and they are largely harmless but can live in hair for a long time if not properly treated, and can be irritating and frustrating to deal with.

Exclusion from Pre-school is generally not necessary for a child with this condition as it is unlikely to help prevent the spread of head lice. However, if a child is found to have head lice, it is important for parents to begin treatment straightaway and before the child returns to Pre-school. Prompt treatment action is requested so that we reduce the risk of head lice being passed on to others.

Parents must also report if their child has head lice to a member of staff so that we can make other parents aware. This is done confidentially and no names are mentioned. Please look out for our sign on our outside Pre-school door which will notify you if we have any infestations.

Please be aware that it is the parent's responsibility to check their child's hair regularly and treat it as soon as possible if any head lice are found. Please note that staff are unable to check through a child's hair for you in case of head lice dropping off on to clothes, toys or their own hair. This is our prevention procedure.

Procedures for Children who are Unwell at Pre-School

If a child appears unwell during a session at pre-school - for example, has a temperature, sickness, diarrhoea or pains, particularly in the head or stomach – the parents are called and asked to collect their child straightaway, or to send a known carer to collect on their behalf.

A child's temperature is taken using a 'fever scan' kept near to the first aid box.

If a child has a temperature, they are kept cool by removing top clothing and given a drink, but are kept away from draughts.

In extreme cases of emergency, the child is taken to the nearest hospital and the parent/guardian is informed.

HIV/AIDS/Hepatitis Procedure

HIV virus, like other viruses such as Hepatitis, (A, B and C) are spread through body fluids.

Hygiene precautions for dealing with body fluids are the same for all children and adults:

Single use vinyl gloves and aprons are worn when changing children's nappies, pants and clothing that are soiled with blood, urine, faeces or vomit.

Protective rubber gloves are used for rinsing clothing after changing.

Soiled clothing is rinsed and bagged for parents to collect.

Spills of blood, urine, faeces or vomit are cleared using mild disinfectant solution and mops; cloths used are disposed of.

Tables and other furniture, furnishings or toys affected by blood, urine, faeces or vomit are cleaned using a disinfectant.

Pandemic Flu (such as Swine Flu) & Infection Control

We limit the risk of catching or spreading the flu virus by:

- Regular hand washing.
- Minimising contact between our hands and mouth/nose.
- Covering nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, using a tissue and disposing of the tissue promptly and carefully.
- Encouraging children to follow the guidance above.
- Displaying posters to encourage good practice of hygiene and to promote infection control.
- Ensuring that the hygiene requirements of our “Health and Safety Policy” are adhered to.
- Asking parents to keep any child with symptoms of flu at home until they are clear of the symptoms.
- Isolating any child who becomes ill with symptoms of the flu from other children until the child can be collected by his parents.
- Instructing staff to remain at home if they display any relevant flu symptoms, or sending them home if they first display symptoms while at work.
- Advising anyone who thinks they may have been in contact with swine or pandemic flu to seek medical advice.

Setting Closure

The latest scientific advice is that closing individual settings is of limited benefit in stopping the spread of pandemic flu. However, we will close the setting if advised to do so by the local authority in the interests of safeguarding children in our care or if we have too few unaffected staff to run the session safely. In the event of closure, we would follow our “Emergency Closure of Setting policy”.

Advance Planning

In preparation for dealing with a pandemic disease, we ensure that all contact details for staff, children and parents are up to date.

We will prepare letters of notification for parents and staff so that they can be distributed as soon as an outbreak occurs.

Notifications of Infectious Diseases (NOIDS)

We regularly update our information regarding “Notifications of infectious diseases” (NOIDS) by checking the latest guidance from Public Health England (PHE) and the local authority. This information is passed on to staff and parents.

The following diseases notifiable to local authority proper officers under the Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010:

- Acute encephalitis
- Acute infectious hepatitis
- Acute meningitis
- Acute poliomyelitis
- Anthrax
- Botulism
- Brucellosis
- Cholera
- Diphtheria
- Enteric fever (typhoid or paratyphoid fever)
- Food poisoning
- Haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS)
- Infectious bloody diarrhoea
- Invasive group A streptococcal disease
- Legionnaires’ disease
- Leprosy
- Malaria
- Measles
- Meningococcal septicaemia
- Mumps
- Plague
- Rabies
- Rubella

- Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)
- Scarlet fever
- Smallpox
- Tetanus
- Tuberculosis
- Typhus
- Viral haemorrhagic fever (VHF)
- Whooping cough
- Yellow fever

If a child or adult is diagnosed suffering from a notifiable disease under the above regulations, the GP will report this to the local authority who in turn notify PHE.

When the pre-school becomes aware, or is formally informed of the notifiable disease, the Pre-School Supervisor informs Ofsted and acts on any advice given by PHE.

