

# Infection Control

EYFS: 3.45, 3.46, 3.46

At Radnor Park Kindergarten we promote the good health of all children attending (including oral health) through maintaining high hygiene standards to help reduce the chances of infection being spread. We follow the health protection in schools and other childcare facilities guidance<sup>4</sup> which sets out when and how long children need to be excluded from settings, when treatment and/or medication is required and where to get further advice from.

Viruses and infections can be easily passed from person to person by breathing in air containing the virus, which is produced when an infected person talks, coughs or sneezes. It can also spread through hand and face contact after touching a person or surface contaminated with viruses.

We follow the guidance below to prevent a virus or infection from spreading around the nursery.

Our staff:

- Encourage all children to use tissues when coughing and sneezing to catch germs
- Ensure all tissues are disposed of in a hygienic way and all children and staff wash their hands once the tissue is disposed of
- Develop children's understanding of the above and the need for good hygiene procedures in helping them to stay healthy
- Wear the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when changing nappies, toileting children and dealing with any other bodily fluids. Staff are requested to dispose of these in the appropriate manner and wash hands immediately
- Clean and sterilise all potties and changing mats before and after each use
- Clean toilets at least daily and check them throughout the day
- Remind children to wash their hands before eating, after visiting the toilet, playing outside or being in contact with any animal and explain the reasons for this
- Clean all toys, equipment and resources on a regular basis by following a comprehensive cleaning rota and using antibacterial cleanser, or through washing in the washing machine
- Wash or clean all equipment used by babies and toddlers as and when needed, including when the children have placed it in their mouth
- Store dummies in individual hygienic dummy boxes labelled with the child's name to prevent cross-contamination with other children
- Immediately clean and sterilise (where necessary) any dummy or bottle that falls on the floor or is picked up by another child
- Provide labelled individual bedding for children that is not used by any other child and wash this at least once a week
- Ask parents and visitors to remove all outdoor footwear, or use shoe covers, when entering rooms where children may be crawling or sitting on the floor
- Where applicable wear specific indoor shoes or slippers whilst inside the rooms and make sure that children wear them as well
- Follow the Sickness and illness policy when children are ill to prevent the spread of any infection in the nursery. Staff are also requested to stay at home if they are ill and/or are contagious.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities>

In addition:

- The nursery manager retains the right of refusal of all children, parents, carers, staff and visitors who are deemed contagious and may impact on the welfare of the rest of the nursery
- Parents will be made aware of the need for these procedures in order for them to follow these guidelines whilst in the nursery
- Periodically each room in the nursery will be deep cleaned including carpets and soft furnishings to ensure the spread of infection is limited. This will be implemented earlier if the need arises
- In the event of an infection outbreak the nursery will, where appropriate, undertake a deep clean to ensure the spread of infection is contained
- We will follow Government health guidance, as well as seeking legal advice and information from our insurers, on any national outbreak of a virus and/or pandemic and keep parents informed of any course of action. Each specific circumstance will differ and to ensure we take the most appropriate action; we will treat each case on an individual basis
- In addition, where contagious outbreaks occur, we will adopt Government guidance for all visitors to minimise the risk of further spreading of the infection
- The nursery will ensure stocks of tissues, hand washing equipment, cleaning materials and sterilising fluid are maintained at all times. These will be increased during the winter months, or when flu and cold germs are circulating.

### **What happens if my child is ill at home?**

Depending upon the symptoms you may have to consider excluding your child from the Nursery in accordance with our guidelines as stated later in this document.

Children should not be admitted into the setting if they are showing signs of any ailment that could be contagious or could affect the settings ability to care for the child and the other children in attendance.

Similarly, any member of staff who attends work showing signs of an ailment that could affect their ability to carry out their duties will be sent home and a replacement member of staff called in to cover.

Should you consider that your child is well enough to attend we do require that you notify us of ANY illness that has occurred and any medicine you have administered to your child in the 12 hours before attending the nursery. This ensures our team is able to monitor for any signs of reoccurrence or for unusual child behaviour. In some cases, this will also ensure any symptoms of infectious diseases are picked up early and managed effectively.

### **Key Guidelines for Exclusion**

Based upon Health Protection Agency guidance we adhere to the following exclusion periods depending upon the symptoms and illness.

#### **No Exclusion**

Head Lice  
 Conjunctivitis,  
 Tonsillitis  
 Roseola  
 Slapped Cheek  
 Threadworms  
 Hand, Foot and Mouth

#### **24 Hours**

Vomiting – after last symptom  
 Diarrhoea – after last symptom

#### **5 Days from symptoms**

\*Whooping Cough  
 \*German Measles  
 \*Measles

\*Mumps  
Chicken Pox

#### **Other**

\*Scarlet Fever – can return 24 hours after commencing antibiotics  
Scabies – until fully treated  
Ringworm – until treatment  
Impetigo – until lesions have crusted over

**\*Notifiable Diseases** There is a list of notifiable diseases which we have a legal obligation to report to the Health Protection Agency and OFSTED should a child within our care become infected. Some are named in this policy and are shown by an \* by the relevant illness. In these cases, we work closely with you, the parents/carers, the HPA and OFSTED to ensure that all additional advice that may be given is followed through.

#### **Hospital Admittance**

If a child has been admitted to hospital for any duration, they cannot attend the kindergarten for a full 24 hours after hospital admission. This precaution ensures that the child has sufficient time to recover and is well enough to participate in nursery activities.

#### **Antibiotics**

If your child is **prescribed antibiotics they cannot attend the kindergarten until 24 hours after their first dose** in case of a reaction. We are happy to administer antibiotics if your child has been prescribed them by a doctor and prescribed specifically to your child. Please ensure you discuss with the team your child's illness, dosage & frequency and any possible side effects your child may have from the medication. If the antibiotic is given to your child because of an infectious disease then your child should be excluded from attending the nursery until they are no longer infectious.

#### **Information for Pregnant Mothers**

There are a number of infections which can be harmful to the unborn baby.

These include: Chicken Pox \*German Measles (Rubella) Slapped Cheek \*Measles

If you or your child has been at the Nursery when one of the above infections is present, we advise you to see your GP/Midwife to check if you are immune and seek their professional medical advice.

| <b>This policy was adopted on</b> | <b>Signed on behalf of the nursery</b> | <b>Date for review</b> |
|-----------------------------------|--|------------------------|
| <i>December 2023</i>              | <i>Emily Sargeant</i>                  | <i>December 2024</i>   |