

Managing Children's Illness at The Acorn Nursery School Policy

The Acorn Nursery School is unable to allow sick children to attend Nursery.

If a child becomes ill at nursery, staff will inform parents or an emergency contact and request the child is collected. While awaiting the arrival of parents, a member of staff (preferably the child's keyperson) will remain with them and will ensure the comfort of the child and offer reassurance to them, taking appropriate action, which might include seeking medical advice if necessary. If the child's condition deteriorates, the staff will seek medical advice immediately.

The decision of the Manager is final when requesting the exclusion of a child for illness or infection. Decisions will take into account the needs of the child and those of the group. If staff suspect that a child has an infectious or contagious disease, they will request that parents consult a doctor before the child returns to nursery.

Children must never be sent to nursery if they have been given fever reducing medication such as Calpol or Ibuprofen.

Measures to prevent the spread of infections

Our baseline infection prevention and control measures will help to manage the spread of infection.

- Respiratory hygiene is actively promoted following the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach. Children should NOT use their hand to cover their cough, as this spreads the infection further as children use their hands to play with shared resources. Children are shown how to cover their coughs and sneezes with the inside of their elbow or a tissue. Tissues are disposed of immediately. Children and staff must wash their hands or clean with alcohol hand sanitiser after cleaning their nose.
- Children and staff regularly wash their hands and children are supported to do so thoroughly.
- Internal spaces are well ventilated by opening windows and doors when occupied by staff and children, whatever the weather.
- We aim to spend as much time as possible outdoors, whatever the weather.
- All hard surfaces subject to regular touch are cleaned regularly with an anti-viral disinfectant spray. These include but are not limited to: door handles; sinks; taps; soap dispensers, and toilet flush handles.
- Resources used by children and staff are cleaned regularly with anti-viral and anti-bacterial disinfectant.
- Bins are emptied daily.
- All adults working at The Acorn Nursery School are encouraged and enabled to take up the offer of national vaccination programmes including Covid-19 and flu.

Head injury – if a child sustains a head injury of any kind at nursery we will phone parents/carers immediately. We will decide together if the child should remain at nursery or whether medical assistance should be sought. If it's decided the child is well enough to remain at nursery, staff will be extra vigilant in observing the child for the remainder of the session. In case of severe head injury, we will call for an ambulance and phone parents/carers immediately. Please notify us when you drop your child off if they have received a head injury at home within 24 hours prior to nursery starting.

Antibiotics - it is important that children are not subjected to the rigours 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 24 hours of the course.

Below are listed some of the most common infections or illnesses that occur in young children. More detailed information can be found on <https://www.gov.uk/topic/health-protection/infectious-diseases>

- **Chicken pox** – an itchy spotty disease that happens in 3 stages (spots, blisters, scabs). Children need to stay away from nursery until all the spots have scabbed over, usually about 5 days.
- **Conjunctivitis** - children with conjunctivitis should be treated and only return to nursery after receiving treatment for 24 hours.
- **Covid-19** – if a child presents with a raised temperature or a persistent cough during their nursery session we will call parents to collect their child. If you choose to test your child for Covid-19 and the result is positive, your child will need to stay away from nursery for a minimum of 3 days after the day they took the test.
- **Diarrhoea and/or vomiting (D and V)**- children should stay away from nursery for at least 48 hours after the last episode of sickness and/or diarrhoea.
- **Fever** – “A normal temperature in babies and children is about 36.4C, but this may vary slightly from child to child. A high temperature is 38C or more.” (www.nhs.uk) Any child sent home or kept at home with a high temperature of 38C or more, shall not be readmitted to the nursery for at least 24 hours.
- **Food Poisoning** – we will notify Ofsted, within 14 days, if 2 or more children in our care contract food poisoning.
- **Hand, foot and mouth** – the child develops a fever and reduced appetite. After a couple of days a rash develops with blisters on/in the cheeks, feet and hands. The virus is spread by coughing and sneezing. Children should stay at home until they feel well but may return to nursery before the blisters have scabbed over.
- **Headlice** - children must receive treatment before attending nursery. Staff will inform parents if head lice are discovered at nursery and advise them of current treatments.
- **Impetigo** – this is highly contagious and needs to be treated immediately. Children should stay away from nursery for at least 48 hours (when the patches dry out and crust over)
- **Measles**- spread by coughs and sneezes, it causes a red-brown blotchy rash. Your child needs to stay at home for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears. There is no specific treatment other than rest, taking painkillers and drinking plenty of water. It is a preventable disease if children are vaccinated.
- **Mumps**- the most common symptom is swelling of the parotid glands (either side of the face, just below the ears). This highly infectious disease requires children to stay away for at least 5 days since the start of infection, but only when the child feels better. It is a preventable disease if children are vaccinated.
- **Rubella (German measles)** – the main symptom is a red or pink spotty rash. Preventable by having the MMR as a baby or young child. It can cause complications during pregnancy. Children contracting Rubella should stay away from nursery for at least 5 days after the rash appears.
- **Slapped cheek syndrome (parvovirus B19)** – a red rash may appear on 1 or both cheeks, followed by a rash on the chest, arms and legs a few days later. The rash fades within a couple of weeks. The virus is spread by coughing or sneezing and is only infectious before a rash appears. As a result, children are not excluded from nursery but if the child comes into contact with someone who is pregnant there is a very small risk of miscarriage or other complications.
- **Tapeworms or Threadworms** - children with Tapeworms or Threadworms should consult their GP and not attend nursery for 24 hours after treatment has commenced.

Staff will report any concerns about a child's health to the parents/carers immediately. Parents are responsible for keeping the nursery informed about the child's health, and it is essential you inform us if your child is ill and cannot attend nursery. The Acorn Nursery School doesn't aim to exclude children from the nursery unnecessarily, but has a duty of care to all the families to ensure children are kept as safe and healthy as possible whilst at nursery.

Further information about any of the conditions described above can be found on <https://www.gov.uk/topic/health-protection/infectious-diseases>

Vaccination and Outbreak Management

As part of our commitment to providing a safe and healthy environment for all children, staff, and families, our nursery recognises the critical role that routine childhood vaccinations play in the prevention of serious and contagious illnesses. We strongly encourage all families to ensure their children are up to date with the UK's recommended childhood immunisation schedule, as advised by the NHS and Public Health England. Parents and carers are asked to confirm their child's vaccination status upon registration and update the nursery with any changes.

In the event of an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease (e.g., measles, mumps, rubella, whooping cough), the nursery will work closely with the local health protection team to take appropriate action in line with public health guidance. This may include:

- Temporary exclusion of unvaccinated children from the nursery to minimise the risk of transmission and protect vulnerable children and staff.
- Notification to parents/carers of any confirmed cases and recommended actions.
- Reinforcement of hygiene and infection control measures.

The exclusion period will be determined by public health officials based on the nature and severity of the outbreak. While we respect the personal decisions of families regarding vaccinations, our primary duty is to safeguard the health and wellbeing of all individuals within our setting.

The Registered Provider will notify Ofsted of any serious accident, illness or injury to, or death of, a child while in our care. Notification will be made as soon as possible, but in any event within 14 days of the incident occurring. We have regard for Reporting of Injuries, Diseases, and Dangerous Occurrences Regulation 2013 (RIDDOR).