

SICKNESS POLICY

At Greenfields Day Nursery we promote the good health of all children attending. To help keep children healthy and minimise infection, we do not expect children to attend Nursery if they are unwell. If a child becomes unwell it is in their best interest to be in a home environment with adult's they know well rather than at Nursery with their peers.

In order to take appropriate action of children who become ill and to minimise the spread of infection we implement the following procedures:

If a child becomes ill during the Nursery day, we contact their parent(s) and ask them to pick up their child as soon as possible. During this time, we care for the child in a quiet, calm area with an adult.

We follow the guidance given to us by Public Health England (formerly the Health Protection Agency) in Guidance on Infection Control in Schools and other Child Care Settings and advice from our local health protection unit on exclusion times for specific illnesses, for example sickness and diarrhoea, measles and chicken pox, to protect other children in the Nursery.

Should a child have an infectious disease, such as sickness and diarrhoea, they must not return to Nursery until they have been clear for at least 48 hours.

We notify Ofsted as soon as possible and in all cases within 14 days of the incident where we have any child or staff member with food poisoning.

We inform all parents if there is a contagious infection identified in the Nursery, to enable them to spot the early signs of this illness. We thoroughly clean and sterilise all equipment and resources that may have come into contact with a contagious child to reduce the spread of infection.

We have the right to refuse admission to a child who is unwell regardless of whether they have a high temperature. This decision will be taken by the manager on duty and is non-negotiable.

If a parent finds that their child has head-lice we would be grateful if they could inform the Nursery so that other parents can be alerted to check their child's hair.

Coronavirus Guidelines

Please refer to our Coronavirus (Covid-19) Policy for full guidance. The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- **high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back and a reading of 37.8°C or higher
- **new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)

- **loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Children with symptoms must not attend Nursery under any circumstances. This includes, but is not limited to, cold symptoms, or the need for Calpol (or similar) to control a temperature. You must inform the Nursery manager if your child is absent due to Covid-19. Adults with Covid-19 symptoms should not enter the Nursery at any time.

If any child becomes unwell at Nursery with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature (37.8°C) they must be sent home and tested for Covid19. If positive they should remain away from nursery for 5 days as the government guidance suggests.

Meningitis procedure

If a parent informs the Nursery that their child has meningitis, the Nursery manager will contact the Infection Control (IC) Nurse for their area. The IC Nurse will give guidance and support in each individual case. If parents do not inform the Nursery, we will be contacted directly by the IC Nurse and the appropriate support will be given.

We will follow all guidance given and notify any of the appropriate authorities including Ofsted if necessary.

Transporting children to hospital procedure

The Nursery manager/staff member must:
Call for an ambulance immediately if the sickness is severe.
DO NOT attempt to transport the sick child in your own vehicle.

Whilst waiting for the ambulance, contact the parent(s) and arrange to meet them at the hospital.

Redeploy staff if needed to ensure there is adequate staff deployment to care for the remaining children. This may mean temporarily grouping the children together.

Arrange for the most appropriate member of staff to accompany the child taking with them any relevant information such as registration forms, relevant medication sheets, medication and the child's comforter.

Remain calm at all times. Children who witness an incident may well be affected by it and may need lots of cuddles and reassurance. Staff may also require additional support following the accident.

Written by Susan McGeoch

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