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The statutory framework in England is the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). The latest version of the framework is here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2>

The requirements of the EYFS in relation to illness and infection control state:

- **Procedures:** providers must have a procedure, discussed with parents and/or carers, for responding to children who are ill or infectious, take necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection, and take appropriate action if children are ill (see footnote).
- **Health protection guidance** is set out in a footnote: Guidance on health protection in schools and other childcare facilities which sets out when and for how long children need to be excluded from settings, when treatment/medication is required and where to get further advice can be found at:

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

illness and infection control policy statement

All reasonably appropriate steps are taken to protect children from illness and infection.

Illness and infection control procedures

To keep children as healthy as reasonably practicable, the following illness and infection control procedures are followed:

- Play areas are regularly cleaned and sterilised, including toys and other resources.
- Children are supervised when using resources which may transfer infection such as sand, water and messy play including cooking and playdough.
- Tissues, a lidded bin and hand wipes are provided for the children to use. We teach children to cough or sneeze into their elbows (like an elephant) and we supervise hand washing afterwards.
- Good hand washing techniques are taught, to prevent the spread of infection and cross contamination.
- We have procedures in place to deal with bodily fluids safely.
- Children are kept safe and supervised when in contact with animals.
- Children ~~about~~ are taught, in age appropriate ways, about health and safety, germs, viruses etc.

If a child falls ill

- The child will be treated using first aid and / or medication (with prior written permission) if appropriate.
- The child will be isolated if necessary.
- Every effort will be made to telephone parents to collect the child as quickly as possible. Emergency contacts will be telephoned if parents are not available - it is important that parents provide at least 2 emergency contacts for each child.
- In an emergency, 999 / 111 will be contacted for further advice.
- Parents will be asked to keep their child at home for the recommended exclusion time.

Parents, please note that if your child is unable to participate in normal daily routines, is irritable, continuously crying or requires more attention than can be safely provided without impeding the health, safety and wellbeing of other children in the setting or is not well enough to attend other provisions such as school or nursery, they should be at home with parents.

Further illness and infection control considerations

If parents are ill please consider whether it is safe to bring your child to the setting, to protect your child, other children and staff members.

Note: if you need to ask someone else to collect your child, you must supply a password and photo of them for us to use.

If staff are ill parents will be contacted as soon as reasonably practicable and asked to collect the child. Staff carry emergency contact information for children on outings.

Confidentiality: where possible, confidentiality will be maintained. However, please note that details of illnesses will be shared if advised by the Local Authority, Public Health England, Ofsted or other agencies. Please see the Confidentiality Policy for more information.

Reporting a notifiable disease: it is the duty of the attending doctor to determine whether a disease is notifiable and then to inform the Local Authority. In some instances, where required in the statutory framework, early years providers must inform the Local Authority and Ofsted.

If you have any questions, please ask. Thank you.

Signed:



Review date:

24/3/25

Policy updates

Updated 08.2021: wording reviewed and adapted where relevant to comply with the changes to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

Updated 07.2022: wording updated to reflect changes to Covid-19 legislation and guidance.

Updated 08.2023 – general wording check to ensure policy is current and valid.