



Coronavirus Policy & Outbreak Management Plan



The aim of this policy is to limit the occurrence and transmission of Coronavirus at the setting, protecting all who attend and visit. This policy must be read in conjunction with the most up to date publication of ***Actions for Early Years and Childcare Providers during the COVID 19 Pandemic*** published by DfE and found at: [Actions for early years and childcare providers during the COVID-19 pandemic \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

When an individual develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test

Children, staff and other adults should follow public health advice and are advised to remain at home if they test positive or have symptoms of an upper respiratory infection and a high temperature or feel unwell, until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and return to the setting.

Refer also to the setting's Sickness and Medication Policy for protocol to follow for responding to a suspected and/or confirmed case of Coronavirus.

Limiting the spread of Coronavirus

Staff, parents and children will be encouraged to maintain an acceptable distance to other adults, and to practice good hygiene, including handwashing and/or use of alcohol gel.

General Operating Procedures

Childcare settings remain a safe place for children and infections of Coronavirus in children is usually mild.

Social distancing within childcare settings and very young children is accepted to be very difficult and hard to maintain. Staff should implement these measures as far as they are able, which will not eliminate cross contamination, but will limit it. These measures will be taken wherever it is possible and whilst the overall priority is to still ensure that children are kept safe and well cared for.

We reserve the right to take the temperature of any person (including children) entering the setting and to refuse access if management have any reason to believe they are unwell.

Staff

Staff must wash their hands in the staff bathroom as soon as they enter the building and before they start work.

Long hair should be tied back, nails kept short and jewellery (particularly rings), kept to a bare minimum.

Increased cleaning of surfaces and high traffic areas will take place regularly e.g. handles, door frames, toilets and appliances. This must be undertaken at adult and child height for high contact areas.

Increased cleaning/sterilisation of toys is encouraged and limited use of shared soft toys between children. Where used, soft toys and furnishings will be laundered regularly.

Children

Children who are able to, will be encouraged to wash their hands when arriving at the setting and after outside play and before consuming food/drink.

Young children will be encouraged and helped to wash their hands. Tissues used to clean children will be disposed of immediately. Towels, flannels, bedding etc. must never be shared between children or staff.

Sleep times will be managed to ensure children are spaced apart where possible.

Outdoor play will be encouraged and used as much as possible.

Windows will be opened whenever comfortably possible to facilitate good ventilation throughout the setting.

Promote 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' throughout the setting.

Further information can be found in the DfE Guidance which should be complied with AT ALL TIMES:

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Use of personal protective equipment (PPE) in education, childcare and children's social care settings.

Clinically Vulnerable Children and Staff

Up to date advice must be sought to ensure this group is adequately safeguarded.

Outbreak Management Plan

In the event of 5 or more confirmed cases at the setting occurring within 10 days where positive cases may have mixed with each other, this may constitute an 'outbreak'.

Increased use of asymptomatic testing in staff.

Increased use of PPE and option of wearing face coverings to all staff.

Re- introduction of 'bubbles' and limited/restricted mixing between these groups of children and staff.

Re-introduction of limiting shared play resources such as sand and water, malleable play.

Consideration of vulnerable groups (staff and children) based on individual risk assessment, possibility of amended duties.

Increased cleaning and sanitising regimes.

Department for Education (DfE) Coronavirus Helpline

This helpline is available to answer questions about Coronavirus relating to education and children's social care. Staff and parents can contact this helpline on 0800 046 8687. For reference purposes this setting's URN is EY411978.