

Sickness and Illness

At **Abbotswood 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 is unwell it is in their best interest to be in a home environment with adults they know well rather than at nursery with their peers.

This policy should be read alongside the medication policy.

Our procedures

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

- If staff have a concern that a child is unwell, they will firstly take the child's temperature. If this is slightly raised, they will monitor the child taking off any layers of clothing and offering the child water to drink.
- 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 their key person, wherever possible
- If a child develops a high temperature of 37.8 or above whilst at nursery. A senior member of staff will inform management to let them know of the child's current situation then call the parents to A) see if they want their child to be given Calpol and follow the bottles dose and B) ask the parents to collect.
- Liquid paracetamol and other liquid pain relief medicines can mask the symptoms of a high temperature. For this reason, the Nursery will not accept a child into their care if a child has had liquid pain relief (Calpol, neurofen etc) 6 hours prior to their session at nursery.
- We follow the guidance published by Public Health England (Health Protection in Schools and other childcare facilities) and advice from our local health protection unit on exclusion times for specific illnesses, e.g. 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
- If a child has been sick we will asked for them to be collected immediately. If they have diarrhoea we will ask for them to be collected after 3 consecutive loose movements and ask for them to be kept at home until 48 hours after last episode.
- 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 notify Ofsted as soon as is reasonably practical, but in any event within 14 days of the incident of any food poisoning affecting two or more children cared for on the premises.
- We ask parents of children who have been prescribed antibiotics to have given the first dose at home 24 hours prior to attending nursery.
- We have the right to refuse admission to a child who is unwell. This decision will be taken by the manager on duty and is non-negotiable
- We make information/posters about head lice readily available and all parents are requested to regularly check their children's hair. 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.

Meningitis procedure

If a parent informs the nursery that their child has meningitis, the nursery manager will contact the Local Area Infection Control (IC) Nurse. The IC Nurse will give guidance and support in each individual case. If parents do not inform the nursery, we may be contacted directly by the IC Nurse and the appropriate support given. We will follow all guidance given and notify any of the appropriate authorities including Ofsted where necessary.

We will follow the transporting children to hospital procedure in any cases where children may need hospital treatment.

The nursery manager/staff member must:

- Inform a member of the management team immediately
- Call 999 for an ambulance immediately if the illness is severe. DO NOT attempt to transport the unwell child in your own vehicle
- Follow the instructions from the 999 call handler
- Whilst waiting for the ambulance, a member of staff must contact the parent(s) and arrange to meet them at the hospital
- Redeploy staff if necessary 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.

If a child has an accident that may require hospital treatment but not an ambulance (which would be decided by the ambulance service) we may choose to transport children within staff vehicles

- We will only do this if we have permission to do so from the parents.

- Ratio requirements of the nursery are being maintained whilst the staff member is out
- There is a suitable car seat available for the child to use, taking into consideration age and weight of the child. Further guidance can be found at www.childcarseats.org.uk/types-of-seat/
- There are some exceptions for needing a child seat depending again on their age. Further guidance can be found at www.childcarseats.org.uk/the-law/cars-taxis-private-hire-vehicles-vans-and-goods-vehicles/#under-three
- Staff must ensure the car seat is fitted appropriately as per manufacturer instructions and safety guidance.
- Safeguarding of the child needs to be looked at. In certain situations e.g. a designated member of staff should be appointed to plan and provide oversight of all transporting arrangements and respond to any difficulties that may arise. Wherever possible and practicable it is advisable that transport is undertaken other than in private vehicles, with at least one adult additional to the driver acting as an escort. Staff should ensure that the transport arrangements and the vehicle meet all legal requirements. They should ensure that the vehicle is roadworthy and appropriately insured and that the maximum capacity is not exceeded
- This should only be done if there is no other way of the child getting help and is the most suitable way of transporting the child.

Minimum Periods of Exclusion from Nursery Disease/Illness

Chickenpox
 Conjunctivitis

Croup
 Diarrhoea and/or vomiting

Gastro-enteritis, food poisoning, salmonellosis, and dysentery
 Hand, Foot & Mouth

Impetigo

Infective hepatitis (A)
 Measles
 Meningococcal infection

Minimal Exclusion Period

Until all vesicles have crusted over
 None (seek medical / pharmaceutical advice for treatment)
 2/3 days exclusion
 48 hours from the last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting
 48 hours or for notifiable diseases, until advised by the relevant public health official
 None unless there is a lot of cases, and the child is unhappy in themselves
 Until the skin is healed or 48 hours after anti-biotic treatment
 7 days from onset of jaundice
 4 days from appearance of the rash
 Until recovered from the illness

Mumps	Until the swelling has subsided and in no case less than 5 days from onset of swelling
Pediculosis (lice)	None (parents to be given advice on treatment)
Pertussis (whooping cough)	5 days from starting anti-biotic treatment or 21 days from the onset of paroxysmal cough if no antibiotic treatment
Plantar warts	No exclusion. Should be treated and covered
Poliomyelitis	Until declared free from infection by the appropriate public health official.
Ringworm of body	Seldom necessary to exclude provided treatment is being given.
Ringworm of scalp	Until cured
Scabies	Need not be excluded once appropriate treatment has been given
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after anti-biotic treatment commences
Symptoms of Covid-19	Stay at home and avoid contact with other people until you no longer have a high temperature (if you had one) or until you feel better.

Please see the below link for more information on exclusions periods relating to infectious illnesses:

<https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/2022-11/A2%20Schools%20poster%201122%20FINAL.pdf>

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
09/02/2024	Roxanne Gregory	09/02/2025