09 Health Policy

# **09.05 Sick or Infectious Children and Children with Allergies Policy**

(Including Reporting Notifiable Diseases)

**Policy Statement**

Infection in a pre-school can spread rapidly, not only amongst children but also amongst staff.

We provide care for healthy children through preventing cross infection of viruses and bacterial infections and promote health through identifying allergies and preventing contact with the allergenic substance.

**Procedures for Children who are Sick or Infectious**

* Parents are required to keep their children at home if they have any infection and to inform the pre-school managers as to the nature of the infection to enable other parents to be alerted.
* Any child who is obviously unwell on arrival at the pre-school will not be accepted.
* All infectious illnesses must be reported to the pre-school manager who will advise on the exclusion period necessary and inform other parents where appropriate (whilst observing confidentiality at all times). This also applies to all staff. This applies in particular to German measles, as this can be extremely harmful to expectant mothers.
* Parents may receive further information on symptoms and incubation periods of any infectious illness from the member of staff responsible for Health and Safety – Leanne Blackley.
* If children appear unwell during the session – have a temperature, sickness, diarrhoea or pains, particularly in the head or stomach – the Pre-school manager will call the parents and ask them to collect the child, or send a known carer to collect the child on their behalf.
* We will endeavour to make the child as comfortable as possible until somebody is able to collect them. It is therefore essential that emergency contact details are kept up to date.
* If a child has a temperature, they are kept cool, by removing top clothing and sponging their heads with cool water, but kept away from draughts. The child's temperature is taken using a No Touch Infrared Forehead Thermometer | Non-Contact Digital Thermometer Suitable for Baby and Adult | Instant Temperature Checker | Room, Surface and Body Mode Thermometer  kept in the first aid box.
* Children should not attend if they have a high temperature. A high temperature is 37.5 or above, or if the child feels hot to touch and appears unwell. Children must not return to school until they have been clear of a temperature for 48 hours without temperature reducing medication eg Calpol.
* Children and young people aged 18 and under with a **positive COVID-19** test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days, which is when they are most infectious.
* In extreme cases of emergency, the child should be taken to the nearest hospital and the parent informed.
* Parents are asked to take their child to the doctor before returning them to the pre-school; the pre-school can refuse admittance to children who have a temperature, sickness and diarrhoea or a contagious infection or disease.
* Where children have been prescribed antibiotics, parents are asked to keep them at home for 48 hours before returning to the setting.
* After diarrhoea, parents are asked to keep children home for 48 hours or until a formed stool is passed.
* The setting has a list of excludable diseases and current exclusion times. The full list is obtainable from [Guidance\_on\_infection\_control\_in schools\_poster.pdf (hscni.net)](https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance_on_infection_control_in%20schools_poster.pdf) and includes common childhood illnesses such as measles. A current copy of this list is displayed in the pre-school lobby.

**Reporting of ‘Notifiable Diseases’**

* If a child or adult is diagnosed as suffering from a notifiable disease under the Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010, the GP will report this to the Health Protection Agency.
* When the pre-school becomes aware, or is formally informed of the notifiable disease, the manager informs Ofsted and acts on any advice given by the Health Protection Agency.

**Nits and Head Lice**

* Nits and head lice are not an excludable condition, although in exceptional cases a parent may be asked to keep the child away until the infestation has cleared.
* On identifying cases of head lice, all parents are informed and asked to treat their child and all the family if they are found to have head lice.

**HIV/AIDS/Hepatitis Procedure**

* HIV virus, like other viruses such as Hepatitis A, B and C, are spread through body fluids. Hygiene precautions for dealing with body fluids are the same for all children and adults.
* Single-use vinyl gloves and aprons are worn when changing children’s nappies, pants and clothing that are soiled with blood, urine, faeces or vomit.
* Protective rubber gloves are used for cleaning/sluicing clothing after changing.
* Soiled clothing is rinsed and bagged for parents to collect.
* Spills of blood, urine, faeces or vomit are cleared using mild disinfectant solution and mops; any cloths used are disposed of.
* Tables and other furniture, furnishings or toys affected by blood, urine, faeces or vomit are cleaned using a disinfectant.

**Procedures for Children with Allergies**

* When children join Parley Community Preschool, parents are asked if their child suffers from any known allergies. This is recorded on the Registration Form.
* If a child has an allergy, a form called a ‘Healthcare Plan’ is completed to detail the following:
* The allergen (i.e. the substance, material or living creature the child is allergic to such as nuts, eggs, bee stings, cats).
* The nature of the allergic reactions e.g. anaphylactic shock reaction, including rash, reddening of skin, swelling, breathing problems etc.
* What to do in case of allergic reactions, any medication used and how it is to be used (e.g. Epipen).
* Control measures - such as how the child can be prevented from contact with the allergen.
* Review.
* This form is kept in the child’s personal file and a copy is kept where staff can easily access it - in the Registration Folder.
* Parents train staff in how to administer special medication in the event of an allergic reaction.
* Generally, no nuts or nut products are used within the setting.
* Parents are made aware so that no nut or nut products are accidentally brought in, for example to breakfast or lunch club or a party or as a birthday treat to offer to other children.

**Insurance Requirements for Children with Allergies and Disabilities**

* The insurance will automatically include children with any disability or allergy, but certain procedures must be strictly adhered to as set out below. For children suffering life threatening conditions, or requiring invasive treatments; written confirmation from our insurance provider must be obtained to extend the insurance.

**At all times the administration of medication must be compliant with the Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and follow procedures based on advice given in** [Chapter 2: infection prevention and control - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/chapter-2-infection-prevention-and-control)

**Oral Medication**

Asthma inhalers are now regarded as ‘oral medication’ by insurers and so documents do not need to be forwarded to our insurance provider.

* Oral medications must be prescribed by a GP or have manufacturer’s instructions clearly written on them.
* The preschool must be provided with clear written instructions on how to administer such medication.
* All risk assessment procedures need to be adhered to for the correct storage and administration of the medication.
* Inhalers must be supplied in original packaging with dosage requirements.
* The preschool must have the parents or guardians prior written consent. This consent must be kept on file. It is not necessary to forward copy documents to our insurance provider.

**Life Saving Medication and Invasive Treatments**

*To include: - Adrenaline injections (Epipens) for anaphylactic shock reactions (caused by allergies to nuts, eggs etc) or invasive treatments such as rectal administration of Diazepam (for epilepsy).*

* Parley Community Preschool must have:
* a letter from the child's GP/consultant stating the child's condition and what medication if any is to be administered
* written consent from the parent or guardian allowing staff to administer medication
* proof of training in the administration of such medication by the child's GP, a district nurse, children’s’ nurse specialist or a community paediatric nurse.
* Copies of all three documents relating to these children must first be sent to the Pre-school Learning Alliance Insurance Department for appraisal. Written confirmation that the insurance has been extended will be issued by return.

**Keyworker for Special Needs Children - Children Requiring Assistance with Tubes to Help them with Everyday Living e.g. Breathing Apparatus, to take Nourishment, Colostomy Bags etc.**

* Prior written consent must be obtained from the child's parent or guardian to give treatment and/or medication prescribed by the child's GP.
* Those responsible for giving treatment must have the relevant medical training/experience, which may include those who have received appropriate instructions from parents or guardians, or who have qualifications.
* Copies of all letters relating to these children must first be sent to the Pre-school Learning Alliance Insurance Department for appraisal. Written confirmation that the insurance has been extended will be issued by return. \*

\* If unsure about any aspect, contact the Pre-school Learning Alliance Insurance Department on 020 7697 2585 or email membership@pre-school.org.uk.

**Further Guidance**

[Chapter 2: infection prevention and control - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/chapter-2-infection-prevention-and-control)