

## Wolfson College Day Nursery

### Sickness and Illness Policy

EYFS: 3.44, 3.45, 3.46

At Wolfson College 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.

#### **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 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

- 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, e.g. sickness and diarrhea, measles and chicken pox, to protect other children in the nursery
- Should a child have an infectious disease, such as sickness and diarrhea, they must not return to nursery until they have been clear for 2 full days, after the day in which they were sick. 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 exclude all children on antibiotics for the first 48 hours of the course (unless this is part of an ongoing care plan to treat individual medical conditions e.g. asthma and the child is not unwell) This is because it is important that children are not subjected to the rigours of the nursery day, which requires socialising with other children and being part of a group setting, when they have first become ill and require a course of antibiotics
- 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.
- Should a child become ill whilst at the nursery, the manager or responsible person will contact the parent or emergency contact, we ask for the child to be collected within one hour.
- We understand the needs of working parents and will not exclude children from the nursery unnecessarily. It is, however, at the discretion of the manager or responsible person when requesting the exclusion of a child for illness or infection and that decision is final. Decisions will be made and take into account the needs of the child and those within the group.

- Coughs and colds do not necessarily require the child to be excluded from the nursery, but this will depend on the severity and how the child is able to cope with nursery routine. A child who is or appears unwell may be refused admission, this will be at the discretion of the manager or responsible person.
- Our staff will report any worries about a child's health or well-being to the parent/carer immediately. Parents/carers are responsible for keeping the nursery informed about their child's health.
- If a child is showing signs of distress or being unwell then we act in the best interest of the child and contact the parents to seek advice and to send them home if necessary.
- The setting has the right to refuse admission to a child who is unwell. This decision will be taken by the manager or responsible person.
- The manager or responsible person retains the right of refusal of all children, parents, staff and visitors who are deemed contagious and may impact on the welfare of the rest of the nursery

### **Common Signs and Symptoms that Your Child is Unwell**

A sick child may:

- be fretful and listless
- cry readily and not be easily comforted
- lose interest in playing
- be unusually quiet and inactive
- not want to eat
- be irritable when disturbed
- feel hot to touch
- look tired and flushed or pale
- complain of feeling cold.

### **When to Seek Medical Attention:**

**Fever:** A body temperature above 38°C for children and babies indicates fever. If the fever persists above these temperatures, your child needs to see the doctor. If your child is under three months and has a fever above 38° C, take them to the doctor straight away to be checked. Remember that pain relief medicines like paracetamol can mask a high temperature.

**Vomiting:** Vomiting is a common reaction to bodily upsets, which may or may not be serious in the absence of other symptoms.

**Diarrhoea:** The loss of fluid through repeated watery poos can cause dehydration in young babies, which can be dangerous.

**Pain:** If your child has pain in the abdomen, throat, ears, or muscles, or when passing urine, they need to see the doctor.

**Rash:** Rashes, which are very common in children, may be due to an infectious disease such as measles or chickenpox, or an allergic reaction to medicine or to something that they ate or touched. Try to find out the cause, which may require medical treatment.

**Headache:** If the headache lasts for a long time, or comes and goes, or your child has a stiff neck, they need to see the doctor.

### **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, inform the College Lodge that you are expecting an Ambulance and arrange for someone to direct them to the Nursery.
- 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
- Inform a member of the management team immediately and inform the Home Bursar.
- 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.

### **Infection Control**

At Wolfson College Day Nursery we promote the good health of all children attending through maintaining high hygiene standards and reducing the chances of infection being spread. We follow the Infection Control in Schools and other Childcare Settings guidance which sets out when and how long children need to be excluded from settings, when treatment/medication is required and where to get further advice from.

Viruses and infections can be easily passed from person to person by breathing in air containing the virus which is produced when an infected person talks, coughs or sneezes. It can also spread through hand/face contact after touching a person or surface contaminated with viruses.

We follow the guidance below to prevent a virus or infection from moving around the nursery.

### **Our staff:**

- Encourage all children to use tissues when coughing and sneezing to catch germs
- Ensure all tissues are disposed of in a hygienic way and all children and staff wash their hands once the tissue is disposed of
- Develop children's understanding of the above and the need for good hygiene procedures in helping them to stay healthy. The children have access to a self-help station in the covered

outdoor space, they are encouraged to wipe their own noses, clean their hands. The children's drink station is also in this area.

- Wear the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when changing nappies, toileting children and dealing with any other bodily fluids. Staff are requested to dispose of these in the appropriate manner and wash hands immediately
- Clean and sterilise all potties and changing mats before and after each use
- Clean toilets at least daily and check them throughout the day
- Remind children to wash their hands before eating, after visiting the toilet, playing outside or being in contact with any animal and explain the reasons for this
- Clean all toys, equipment and resources on a regular basis by following a comprehensive cleaning rota and using antibacterial cleanser or through washing in the washing machine
- Wash or clean all equipment used by babies and toddlers as and when needed including when the children have placed it in their mouth
- Store dummies in individual hygienic dummy boxes labelled with the child's name to prevent cross-contamination with other children
- Immediately clean and sterilise (where necessary) any dummy or bottle that falls on the floor or is picked up by another child
- Provide labelled individual bedding for children that is not used by any other child and is sent to the College laundry once a week
- Ask parents and visitors to remove all outdoor footwear or use shoe covers when entering rooms where children may be crawling or sitting on the floor
- Where applicable wear specific indoor shoes or slippers whilst inside the rooms and make sure that children wear them as well
- Follow the sickness and illness policy when children are ill to prevent the spread of any infection in the nursery. Staff are also requested to stay at home if they are contagious.

In addition:

- Parents will be made aware of the need for these procedures in order for them to follow these guidelines whilst in the nursery
- Periodically each room in the nursery will be deep cleaned including carpets and soft furnishings to ensure the spread of infection is limited. This will be implemented earlier if the need arises
- The nursery will ensure stocks of tissues, hand washing equipment, cleaning materials and sterilising fluid are maintained at all times and increased during the winter months or when flu and cold germs are circulating.

<b>This policy was adopted on</b>	<b>Signed on behalf of the nursery</b>	<b>Date for review</b>
26/7/19	<i>Barry Coote</i>	July 2020