1. **Procedure Aim**

It is the procedure of the nursery to promote good health and hygiene for all children in our care.

The nursery has clear guidelines for the control of infection and infectious diseases, full listings are displayed in the nursery office and details can be found in the parent information pack.

**2. Procedure Statements**

**2.1** We will follow these procedures to ensure the welfare of all children within the nursery:

* If a child becomes ill during the nursery day, their parent(s) will be contacted and asked to pick their child up as soon as possible, if they are not contactable we will proceed to contact the emergency contacts given on the child’s admission form during this time the child will be cared for in a quiet, calm area with their key person.
* In the case of a child coming up in a rash, we may ask you to collect your child and get them seen by a doctor for advice as whether is it infectious or not.
* Should a child have an infectious disease, such as sickness and diarrhoea, they should not return to nursery until they have been clear for at **least 48 hours**
* It is vital that we follow the advice given to us by our registering authority and exclude specific contagious conditions, e.g. Covid-19 (see Covid-19 policy), sickness and diarrhoea, impetigo and meningitis, chicken pox etc to protect other children in the nursery. Illnesses of this nature are very contagious and it is exceedingly unfair to expose other children to the risk of an infection. The nursery will follow national guidelines from Pubic Health England on contagious diseases.
* If a contagious infection is identified in the nursery, parents will be informed to enable them to spot the early signs of this illness. All equipment and resources that may have come into contact with a contagious child will be cleaned and sterilised thoroughly to reduce the spread of infection
* The nursery has the right to refuse admission to a child who is unwell. This decision will be taken by the manager/deputy and is non-negotiable
* Information/posters about head lice are 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 and that their child is treated appropriately.
* New Covid-19 restrictions are in place and the nursery will follow a system of controls to try to keep Covid-19 infections to a minimum (see Covid-19 policy for guidelines).

**2.2 Transporting children to hospital procedure**

* If the sickness is severe, call for an ambulance immediately. DO NOT attempt to transport the sick child in your own vehicle
* Whilst waiting for the ambulance, contact the parent and arrange to meet them at the hospital
* A senior member of staff must accompany the child and collect together registration forms, care plans, relevant medication sheets, medication and the child’s comforter. A member of the management team must also be informed immediately
* Remain calm at all times. Children who witness an incident may well be affected by it and may need lots of comfort and reassurance.

**2.3 Infection control**

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.

The best way to prevent a virus or infection from moving around the nursery environment is to maintain high hygiene standards in the nursery. We follow the guidance on infection controls in schools and other childcare settings and advice from Public Health England on a system of controls to stop the spread of Corona virus.

To do this we will follow the guidance below:

* Ensure all children use tissues when coughing and sneezing to catch all germs, following “catch it, bin it, Kill it” advice
* Ensure all tissues are disposed of in a hygienic way and all children and staff wash their hands once the tissue is disposed of
* Encourage all children to do the above by discussing the need for good hygiene procedures in helping them to stay healthy
* Staff will all wear the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when changing nappies, toileting children and dealing with any other bodily fluids, full PPE will be worn including face masks if a child develops any symptoms of Covid-19 whilst in the setting. Staff are requested to dispose of these in the appropriate manner and wash hands immediately
* All potties and changing mats are cleaned and sterilised before and after each use
* Toilets are cleaned daily by Stoke on Trent College contracted cleaners

Staff are to 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

* All toys, equipment and resources will be cleaned on a regular basis and using antibacterial cleanser or through washing in the washing machine
* All equipment used by babies and toddlers will be washed or cleaned as and when they need it – this includes when the children have placed it in their mouth
* If a dummy or bottle falls on the floor or is picked up by another child, this is cleaned immediately and sterilised where necessary
* Individual bedding will be used by children and labelled. This will be washed once a week and not used for any other child
* When children are ill we will follow the sickness and illness policy to prevent the spread of any infection in the nursery. Staff are also requested to stay at home if they are contagious
* The nursery manager retains the right of refusal of all children, parents, staff, students and visitors who are deemed contagious and may impact on the welfare of the rest of the nursery
* Parents will be made aware of the need for these procedures in order for them to follow these guidelines whilst in the nursery
* 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.

**2.4 Guidance for caring for a sick child/informing parents/carers**

When assessing children, staff must take into account the usual condition/personality of the

Individual, their medical needs, and factors that may affect them (lack of sleep, teething,

temp of room, what they have eaten etc.).

However the early year’s manager reserves the right to adjust the following guidelines at times of a particular outbreak of sickness.

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| **Situation occurs whilst child is at nursery** | **Staff action** |
| A child has a temperature of 37.8ºc or above | Parent/carer will be called to advise them of  the situation and advise to collect, Monitor while  cooling the child by adjusting clothing, sips  of water, until parent arrives |
| A child has two very loose bowel  movements during the period they are attending nursery | Parent/carer will be called to advise them of  the situation so that they can collect the child |
| A child vomits ( if we feel the child vomited due to being upset or coughing a decision will be made by management taking into account the factors) | Parent/carer will be called to advise them of  the situation so that they can collect the child |
| A child has an unexplained  Rash/symptoms. | Parent/carer will be called to advise them of  the situation so that they can collect/seek  medical advice |
| Exclusion Periods | |
| Vomiting and diarrhoea If due to (or suspected) Gastro bugs (i.e., not travel sickness or  allergy related) | 48 hours after the last episode |
| Covid-19 | 10 days from onset of symptoms or positive test result, which ever happens first. |
| Chicken pox | Until all spots have crusted over |
| Hand, Foot and Mouth | None |
| Impetigo | 48 Hours after commencing treatment or lesions have crusted and healed |
| Conjunctivitis | None |
| Antibiotics | 24 hours after commencing antibiotics unless child has had antibiotic before. |
| Ringworm or Threadworm | None |
| Scarlet Fever | For at least 24 hours once antibiotics have been started |
| Head Lice | None. Treatment is recommended where live lice can be seen. |

This list is not exhaustive and other illnesses may be subject to exclusion periods and the Nursery will take medical advice regarding this if needed.

All of the above will apply, however if the child remains or appears to be unwell the exclusion period may be extended,