

PREVENTION OF CORONAVIRUS



Policy statement

Our setting will work to reduce the spread of coronavirus and ensure children, families and staff members' physical and mental wellbeing and health. We will achieve this by engaging with official guidance and taking safety precautions in accordance with advice from Public Health England and our Local Authority. These measures will aim to reduce the likelihood of infection amongst children, parents and staff members within the setting. We will also aim to minimise the impact of coronavirus on children and families' wellbeing by reflecting on managing emotional development into our taught curriculum.

Procedures

Safety and suitability of the premises

- In order to reduce the likelihood of coronavirus infections we will **NOT** permit outside visitors on our premises. This will extend to all parents, professionals and other individuals until further review.
- In accordance with Department for Education official guidance *Planning guide for early years and childcare settings* we will maintain spatial indoor regulations as follows : for children under 2 years there must be 3.5 m² per child ; for 2 year old children there must be 2.5 m² per child ; for children aged 3 to 5 years there must be 2.3 m² per child provided.
- In accordance with Department for Education official guidance *Planning guide for early years and childcare* our group sizes will remain relatively small, consisting of 'bubble' groups of up to 10 children in order to minimise the transmission of the virus. Small sizes will be achieved through a phased return to the setting, with children and families' specific needs taken into account on an individual case bases, considering vulnerable children and those of critical workers firstly, which is in agreement with Department for Education official guidance *Supporting vulnerable children and young people through the coronavirus outbreak*.
- In accordance with Department for Education official guidance *Planning guide for early years and childcare* we will aim to maintaining consistency in the same 'bubble' groups, eg each includes same children/ staff members in order to minimise the transmission of the virus.
- We will ensure that the premises are thoroughly ventilated, and appropriate room temperature is maintained at all times. This will be monitored through opening and close up checks, included in our daily risk assessment.
- In accordance with Department for Education official guidance *Coronavirus – implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings* we will provide appropriate hygiene facilities and encourage increased and frequent hand washing amongst both children and adults in the setting. We will also ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- In accordance with Public Health England official guidance *Covid-19: Cleaning in non-healthcare settings* we will increase daily cleaning of the premises – with specific focus given on high contact touch points

(handles/ doors/ etc) .This will be monitored through opening and close up checks, included in our daily risk assessment.

Maintaining the safety of children and adults

- In accordance with government legislation and Department for Education official guidance *Coronavirus – implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings* we will encourage social distancing in the setting. This will be observed by 2m floor markers, installed on our premises. We will also limit contact between adults as much as possible by allocating the main entrance of the building as a child drop off/ collection point. We will further promote social distancing at collection/drop off by staggering starting and finishing times, offering sessional care and limiting the number of adults from the same household dropping off/collecting to maximum 2.
- To consider and account for potential changes in children and families' information we will be updating children's records, including information about health conditions/anyone in their household having health conditions or shielding. Additionally, we will consider other potential vulnerabilities such as being in foster care, having an Education and Health Care Plan or being supported by social workers and the Local authorities (*Supporting vulnerable children and young people through the coronavirus outbreak*).
- We will liaise with parents and update our records with up to date information about children taking medication (including Calpol) or having any illnesses or symptoms of coronavirus (now or in the past) prior to being re-admitted to the setting.
- We will promote children and adult's health by conducting daily temperature checks on arrival. We will also request daily information from both parents and staff about any newly developed symptoms associated with coronavirus and ask them to observe the appropriate self-isolating procedure accordingly.
- In the case of a child becoming unwell with coronavirus symptoms whilst in our care we will immediately inform their parents/ emergency contact and request their prompt collection. Whilst awaiting collection the child would be cared for by a designated member of staff in a well-ventilated area, separate from the rest of the group in a calm, non- distressing manner in order to reduce any discomfort and impact on the child's emotional wellbeing.
- We would then report any cases to the local authority and the DFE and follow their necessary guidance on self isolation and closure of setting.
- We will maintain and replenish sufficient provision of PPE for appropriate tasks, such as managing children's hygiene and self-care routines, clearing spillages, immediate care of with symptomatic individuals until collection (*Safe working in education, childcare and children's social care settings, including the use of PPE*).
- We will protect our staff members' physical health and mental wellbeing by conducting return to work interviews, highlighting vulnerable or shielding individuals or those with underlying health conditions, which may be at risk of infection.
- In accordance with Department for Education official guidance *Coronavirus – implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings* we will promote and observe social distancing between staff members in the setting by ensuring a maximum number of 2 adults in each room, offering flexible working and staggered meal times and breaks. Furthermore, we will aim to maintain the consistency of staff members in 'bubble' groups to limit unnecessary contact with both children and adults.

Curriculum delivery

- We recognise that for many children and families the current coronavirus outbreak has caused a lot of disruption to their usual routine and will work to reduce its strain on children's emotional and mental wellbeing. A range of risk-assessed, developmentally appropriate activities around *personal, social and emotional development* will be planned to enable children's transition to the setting, support their understanding and promote positive behaviour.
- We will continue to implement the *Early years Foundation Stage*, observing its guidance on adult: child ratios for safeguarding reasons. We will amend the daily planning and provision of resources according to the Department for Education official guidance *Planning guide for early years and childcare*. To reduce the likelihood of infection we will remove shared soft toys and materials; high contact malleable resources such as play dough, sand and water play. We will also discourage the shared use of toys and creative resources by ensuring sufficient stock. A daily sterilisation of resources will be conducted and observed through opening and close up checks, included in our daily risk assessment.
- The delivery of our curriculum will include increased focus on outdoor activities due to health benefits of outdoor play and reduced infection likelihood.
- To further reduce the likelihood of infection between children's homes and the setting we will be limiting the number of resources (homework, book bags, etc) sent into homes limiting the number of personal belongings (such as toys, etc) brought into the setting.
- Our parent partnership will be enhanced by providing no contact opportunities for daily communication and feedback- via phone, email, and Tapestry.

Legal framework

- *Planning guide for early years and childcare settings (DfE, 2020)*
- *Coronavirus – implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings (DfE, 2020)*
- *Supporting vulnerable children and young people through the coronavirus outbreak-actions for educational providers and other partners (DfE, 2020)*

Further guidance

- *Covid-19: Cleaning in non-healthcare settings (Public Health England, 2020)*
- *Early Years Foundation Stage: coronavirus disapplications*