

Blue Windmill Nursery

Sickness, Infection and Exclusion Policy

Policy statement

Blue Windmill Nursery aims to protect the health and wellbeing of children, staff and families while avoiding unnecessary exclusion from nursery.

Children should not attend when they are too unwell to participate comfortably in the nursery day or where their attendance may expose others to an infectious illness.

These arrangements will be shared and discussed with parents and carers as appropriate.

When a child should remain at home

Parents and carers should keep their child at home where the child:

- is significantly unwell or distressed;
- has a high temperature and is unwell;
- has vomiting or diarrhoea;
- requires a level of care that cannot reasonably be provided within normal nursery staffing;
- has been advised by a healthcare professional or public-health service not to attend;
- is within a recommended public-health exclusion period.

The nursery follows the current **UK Health Security Agency guidance for children and young people's settings**, including its published exclusion periods.

We do not reproduce individual exclusion periods within this policy because public-health advice may change. Where necessary, the nursery will seek advice from the relevant health protection team or another appropriate healthcare professional.

The nursery may apply additional precautions where advised during an outbreak or where a child or staff member is particularly vulnerable to infection.

Children becoming unwell at nursery

Where a child becomes unwell, staff will:

- assess and monitor the child;
- provide comfort and appropriate care;
- contact the parent or carer where collection is necessary;

- keep the child appropriately supervised away from close contact with others where practicable;
- provide first aid or seek medical assistance where required.

Parents must arrange collection as soon as reasonably possible when asked to do so.

A child will not be left alone while waiting to be collected.

Returning to nursery

Children may return when:

- any applicable UKHSA exclusion period has ended;
- they are well enough to take part in the normal nursery day;
- their care needs can be managed safely;
- any advice provided by public-health or healthcare professionals has been followed.

Being prescribed antibiotics does not, by itself, require a fixed period away from nursery. Attendance will depend on the child's condition, the reason for the treatment and applicable public-health guidance.

The nursery will not ordinarily require a doctor's letter confirming that a child is fit to return unless there is a particular medical or public-health reason.

Medication

Medication required during nursery hours will be managed under the nursery's medication procedures.

Medication will not be used simply to enable a child who is significantly unwell to remain at nursery.

Parents must tell staff about medication given before arrival where this may affect doses administered during the nursery day.

Infection prevention

The nursery will reduce the spread of infection through:

- effective handwashing;
- respiratory hygiene;
- suitable cleaning and disinfection;
- safe handling of nappies, waste, laundry and bodily fluids;

- appropriate personal protective equipment;
- suitable food-hygiene practices;
- encouraging recommended vaccinations and health advice.

Parents should notify the nursery promptly of diagnosed infectious illnesses so that appropriate action can be considered.

Outbreaks and notifiable illness

Where there are linked cases, unusual levels of illness, a serious infection or another public-health concern, the manager will seek advice from the relevant health protection team.

The nursery will follow any advice regarding:

- exclusion;
- communication with families;
- enhanced cleaning;
- contact tracing or testing;
- vulnerable children and adults;
- notification to other authorities.

Confidential medical information will only be shared where necessary and appropriate.

The nursery will notify Ofsted of any food poisoning affecting two or more children cared for on the premises, and of any serious illness affecting a child while in our care, as soon as reasonably practicable and in any event within 14 days, where required by the EYFS.

Emergencies

Where a child becomes seriously ill or their condition causes immediate concern, staff will call emergency services and then contact the parent or carer.

A suitable member of staff will remain with the child and may accompany them to hospital until their parent or carer arrives.

The incident and action taken will be recorded.

Responsibilities

Parents and carers are responsible for:

- providing accurate health and emergency-contact information;

- informing the nursery about infectious illnesses and relevant medical advice;
- collecting their child promptly when requested;
- following applicable exclusion guidance.

The manager is responsible for checking current UKHSA guidance, seeking specialist advice where needed and ensuring that staff understand the arrangements.