**Prevention of Infectious Diseases Policy**

**Aim**

The aim of this policy is to ensure all staff and parents are aware of the procedures in place to safeguard children from infectious disease. This policy provides information on the steps that should be taken in the event of a child becoming unwell to safeguard the child, staff and others in the nursery environment.

* All parents/carers are made aware that their child should not attend if suffering from an infection illness. This is outlined in the Nursery Handbook and periodically reinforced in nursery newsletters.
* Parents/carers will be advised if the nursery school experiences an outbreak of an infectious illness by displaying leaflets/information booklets, emailing and lettering parents/carers.
* Staff should be aware, and able to identify common childhood infections illnesses by familiarising themselves with the information leaflets/booklets available.
* If an illness is detected at admission time, the parent/carer should be discreetly asked to remove the child to be assessed by a general practitioner. The parent/carer should also be asked to advise the nursery accordingly if the child is suffering from an infectious illness.
* If an illness is detected during a nursery session the parents/carers or named emergency contact person will be contacted immediately by the staff so that the child may be removed that day. Staff may also isolate the child from the body of the nursery if felt necessary. Parents will be advised of the guidance on recommend periods of absence from nursery, as issued by Lanarkshire Health Board.
* If any child in the setting becomes unwell with Coronavirus and have any of the symptoms: a new, persistent cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell:

The parent/carer should be informed immediately and advised to collect the child as soon as possible.

The child should be moved, if possible, to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door with appropriate adult supervision. Ideally, a window should be opened for ventilation. If it is not possible to isolate them, move them to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people. If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they should be taken to a separate bathroom if possible - the bathroom should be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else.

PPE must be worn by staff caring for the child while they await collection.

In an emergency situation call 999 if the child is seriously ill or their life is at risk.

Anyone with symptoms should not visit the GP, pharmacy, urgent care centre or a hospital. Any members of staff who have helped the child with symptoms and any children who have been in close contact with them do not need to go home to self-isolate, however, they must self-isolate and arrange for a test if they develop symptoms themselves.

Everyone must wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with soap and running water or use hand sanitiser after any contact with someone who is unwell. The area around the person with symptoms must be cleaned with disinfectant after they have left to reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people.

The parent/carer should immediately arrange a test for the child and should then inform the Nursery with the result of the test as soon as possible.

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