**Deans Nursery Class**

**Infection Prevention and Control Policy**

Young children under the age of six are often susceptible to infectious diseases because their immunity may not be fully developed. Their close contact in care and play situations, coupled with their inexperience in practicing good hygiene, makes it easy for germs to spread.

The mainstay of infection control in pre-school groups is the implementation of basic precautions outlined in this policy, underpinned by a common sense understanding of how germs are transmitted.

**Policy Statement**

Staff members will report any concerns about illness, outbreaks or incidents of infection to the head teacher who will contact care inspectorate and the Health Protection Team if appropriate.

Children or adults suffering from an infectious disease will be excluded from the group for a period as advised by Health Protection Scotland.

Staff will provide a healthy and hygienic environment for children and will endeavour to minimize the risk of infection by endorsing basic hygiene procedures.

If a child becomes unwell during the session they will be taken to a quiet area away from others, monitored and the child’s parent/carer will be notified and asked to collect the child.

All cases of infections are recorded in the accident/incident record book along with the action taken (e.g. exclusion/informing other parents). The types of suspected infections reported to other parents will be measles, chicken pox, mumps, scabies, meningitis, hand foot and mouth, slapped cheek and whooping cough. The anonymity of children and staff involved will be maintained.

Equipment within the playroom is cleaned regularly and homemade play dough and sand will be changed at regular intervals.

Staff and helpers will be made aware of, and be expected to adhere to the following procedures and guidelines:

**Procedures:**

**Hand Washing**

Children will be reminded to wash hands particularly after going to the toilet, playing outdoors and before eating snack. Staff will also maintain good hand washing practice. Posters will be displayed as reminders to staff and children.

**Illness**

On occasions there may be instances when children should be excluded from a pre-school setting, both in terms of the child’s personal well-being as well as that of staff, helpers and other children.

Children or adults will not be permitted to attend the nursery if suffering from possible infectious disease - see *Periods of Absence for Communicable Diseases (Appendix 1) . Local NHS Board and Health Protection Teams (HPTs)* will also advise on exclusion criteria.

If a child contracts an infectious illness staff should be informed as soon as possible to enable precautions regarding cross infection to be taken. To prevent cross contamination and spread of infections in the nursery the following practice will be adhered to:

* Disposable gloves will be worn when changing nappies and dealing with toilet accidents. Hands will be washed after removing disposable gloves.
* Any accidents will be cleaned immediately using appropriate cleaners and disinfectants.
* Soiled clothing will be placed in a sealed polythene bag and given to the child’s parent/carer to wash.

**Food Handling and Storage**

All staff are aware of current food hygiene advice and those that have attended training in this area have certificates displayed.

It is essential for food safety to have systems and procedures in place within the kitchen to prevent cross contamination between raw and cooked foods, and to ensure that foods are cooked or reheated thoroughly and stored at the correct temperature.

Hands are thoroughly washed prior to handling or serving food and a reminder regarding this is in the form of a notice in the kitchen area. A fridge thermometer is in place and fridges and freezers are checked and recorded daily by staff as part of their snack duty.

Further guidance on other procedures is displayed in the kitchen area and in the food handling policy.

All re-useable cups and dishes will be washed in the dishwasher or with antibacterial detergent according to food hygiene regulations. In addition raw eggs should not be used in uncooked dishes, and cake mix etc... should not be eaten e.g. not licking the bowl or spoon.

No food additives will be added to food and food allergy and food intolerance information will be displayed for parents/carers.

**Disinfection in the Environment**

Good housekeeping including vacuuming, damp dusting and washing is essential in the prevention of the spread of infection. Standard household general purpose detergent is usually sufficient for cleaning most surfaces, which are cleaned twice daily, after each session. Disinfectants may be required: during an outbreak of gastroenteritis dealing with blood or blood stained spillages.

Rubber gloves and a plastic apron will be worn when cleaning up small spillages/smears of blood, vomit or excreta. Soak up as much of the spillage as possible with disposable towels. Clean the area thoroughly with hot water and detergent and finally disinfect. Wipe the disinfectant off and dry thoroughly.

**Hygiene and Disposal of Nappies**

Children are changed in the designated toilet area, where nappy sacks and disinfectant wipes and gloves are available. Gloves and white aprons are worn while changing the soiled nappy.

All soiled nappies and wipes are placed in nappy sacks and disposed of in a nappy bin. This bin is emptied on a regular basis by a contractor.

Once the child has been cleaned, changed and removed from the area, the changing surface is cleaned with a general purpose detergent and water and rinsed and dried. Hands are thoroughly washed after removing gloves.

**Contact with Animals** See Health Protection Scotland Infection Prevention and Control in Childcare settings 2015 and WL Council policy for action to take before, during and after contact with animals.

**HIV, Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C**

These are spread by direct contact with an infected person’s blood or certain body fluids. They are not spread by normal daily contact and activities e.g. coughing, kissing, hugging or sharing utensils. Universal precautions are taken at all times when dealing with spillages of blood/body fluids as outlined earlier in the document.

**Head Lice**

These are a common problem affecting the whole community, whose main symptom is scalp itching, and they are contracted only by direct head to head contact. They can be treated with insecticide lotions or mechanically removed. Staff will speak directly to the parent/carer and this is restricted to only the parents of the child who appears to have a head lice infection, who can then seek further advice from a health professional or pharmacist. Exclusion from nursery is generally not required.

Further advice can be obtained from www.scotland.gov.uk or [www.healthscotland.com](http://www.healthscotland.com)

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