



Child Sickness and Illness Policy October 2025

We promote the good health of all children attending. To help keep children healthy and minimise infection, we do not expect children to attend nursery if they are unwell. If a child is unwell it is in their best interest to be in a home environment with adults they know well, rather than at nursery among their peers.

Our procedures

To take appropriate action of children who become ill and to minimise the spread of infection we implement the following procedures:

- If a child becomes ill, vomits or gets diarrhoea during the nursery day, this will be reported to a member of SMT who will make an assessment and if necessary, contact parent(s) and ask them to pick up their child as soon as possible. During this time, we care for the child in a quiet, calm area with their key person, wherever possible.
- We follow the guidance given to us by the UK Health Security Agency and our local health protection team on exclusion times for specific illnesses, e.g. stomach bugs, measles and chicken pox, to protect other children in the nursery.
- Should a child have an infectious disease, such as sickness and diarrhoea, they must not return to nursery until they have been clear of symptoms for at least 48 hours.
- We inform all parents if there is a contagious infection identified in the nursery, to enable them to spot the early signs of this illness.
- We notify Ofsted and the UKHSA of outbreaks of infections in line with guidance and implement advice given to manage and contain the spread of infection.
- We retain the right to refuse admission to a child who is unwell or is not well enough to attend without taking medication. This decision will be taken by a member of SMT.
- We request that children with high temperatures are kept at home and not given medication that will get them well for Nursery temporarily and then wear off.
- A child's temperature is taken and checked regularly, if a child's temperature does not go down, and is worryingly high, then Calpol may be given after gaining consent from the parent.
- Where children have been prescribed a new medication or antibiotics for an infectious illness or complaint, parents are asked to keep them at home for 48 hours.
- Parents are requested to communicate with nursery staff regarding illnesses, infections and head lice so that staff and other parents can be notified and take measures to control the spread of infection and be able to spot symptoms early so that other infectious children are kept away from nursery while they are infectious (this does not apply to head lice). In such cases where potentially infectious children are identified within the nursery, parents/carers will be contacted, who must make arrangements for the child to be collected from nursery as soon as is practically possible.

Meningitis procedure

If a parent informs the nursery that their child has meningitis, the nursery manager will contact the UKHSA to obtain guidance and support. We will follow all guidance given and notify any of the appropriate authorities including Ofsted if necessary. All staff will receive reminders of symptoms and the importance of raising concerns about poorly children that could be infected.

Transporting children to hospital procedure

The nursery manager/staff member must:

- Call for an ambulance immediately if sickness is severe.
- Contact the parent(s) and arrange to meet them at the hospital
- Redeploy staff if necessary, to ensure there is adequate staff deployment to care for the remaining children. This may mean temporarily grouping the children together.
- Arrange for the most appropriate member of staff to accompany the child taking with them any medication, comforters and relevant information such as medication records.