



Managing children who are sick, infectious, or with allergies

Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Health

The provider must promote the good health of children attending the setting. They must have a procedure, discussed with parents and/or carers, for responding to children who are ill or infectious, take necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection, and take appropriate action if children are ill.

Policy statement

At Whitchurch Pre-School, children are expected to attend in good health. We promote good health through our Health Eating policy, outdoor play and growing of fruit, vegetables and other plants and through identifying allergies and preventing contact with the allergenic substance and through preventing cross infection of viruses and bacterial infections.

It is our intention that all staff at Whitchurch Pre-School will be fully trained within Paediatric First Aid and hold relevant certification.

We collect information from parents about their child's health including allergies, disabilities and/or other medical problems when they register with us. This enables us to complete a risk assessment and secure training support for staff if needed. This information will be held securely within the child's file and shared with staff depending upon the child's needs.

We also collect detailed consent from parents to enable staff to administer first aid, transport a child to hospital and receipt emergency treatment. If a parent refuses to consent, the Pre-School reserves the right to consider how this may impact our ability to care for their child.

Procedures for children with allergies

If an allergy has been declared at registration or throughout a child's journey at Whitchurch, a risk assessment is completed detailing the following;

- The allergen (i.e. the substance, material or living creature the child is allergic to such as nuts, eggs, bee stings, cats etc.)
- The nature of the allergic reactions e.g. anaphylactic shock reaction, including rash, reddening of skin, swelling, breathing problems etc.
- What to do in case of allergic reactions, any medication used and how it is to be used (e.g. EpiPen).
- Control measures – such as how the child can be prevented from contact with the allergen.
- Review.

This form is kept in the child's personal file and a copy is displayed in the kitchen/dining area, where staff can see it. The Parents (if appropriately trained), Health Visitor or Community Nurse will be asked to visit and train staff in how to administer any medication in the event of an allergic reaction.

We have a 'no nut' rule within setting and all parents are advised not to include nuts or nut products in lunch boxes etc.

Insurance requirements for children with allergies and disabilities

Our insurance includes children with any disability or allergy but certain procedures must be strictly adhered to as set out below. For children suffering life threatening conditions, or requiring invasive treatments; written confirmation from our insurance provider is obtained.

At all times the administration of medication must be compliant with the Welfare Requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (2014) and follow procedures based on advice given in Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings (DfES 2005)

Prescribed Medication

All medication must be prescribed by a GP or other Medical practitioner. Parents/Carers are required to complete a prescribed medication consent form. The medication must hold a clear pharmacy sticker to verify it is prescribed. This should show the child's name, medication name and clear instructions. Further, clear written instructions on how to administer such medicines should be provided by parents as necessary.

Asthma inhalers are regarded as prescribed medication and as such must be recorded as above.

We will adhere to all risk assessment procedures for the correct storage and administration of the medication. Each 'dose' of medication given to the child will be recorded by staff. These records are then retained on file as required by the Early Years Framework.

Life saving medication and invasive treatments

This refers to children requiring help with tubes to help them with everyday living e.g. breathing apparatus, to take nourishment, colostomy bags etc. and others who require adrenaline injections (Epipens) for anaphylactic shock reactions (caused by allergies to nuts, eggs etc) or invasive treatments such as rectal administration of Diazepam (for epilepsy).

We must have:

- Prior written consent from the parent or guardian allowing staff to administer medication and/or treatment prescribed by the GP/Medical practitioner.
- a letter from the child's GP/consultant stating the child's condition and what medication if any is to be administered
- training in the administration of such medication by the child's GP, a district nurse, children's' nurse specialist or a community paediatric nurse before the child begins pre-school. Training must be provided by an appropriately training or qualified person, which may include the parents.

Copies of all documents relating to these children may need to be shared with our insurance company, and will be retained on file.

Procedures for children who are sick or infectious

If children appear unwell during the day i.e. have a temperature, sickness, loose stools or other pains, a member of the staff team will call the parents/carer and asks them to collect the child. A qualified first aid trained staff member will stay with the child to help alleviate symptoms and provide comfort. The child's temperature may be taken using a 'fever scan' kept with the first aid box.

In cases of emergency the child will be taken to the nearest hospital and the parent informed.

We reserve the right to ask parents to take their child to the doctor before they return to pre-school. However in the main children are able to return when they show good health with the exception of;

- Diarrhea/vomiting – parents are asked to keep children home for 48 hours following final episode of diarrhea or vomiting
- When a child is prescribed antibiotics for an infection illness or complaint, parents will be

asked to keep their child home for 48 hours.

Whitchurch Pre-School also reserves the right to refuse admittance to any child who has a temperature, sickness and diarrhea, or a contagious infection or disease.

Some activities, such as sand and water play, and self-serve snacks where there is a risk of cross-contamination may be suspended for the duration of any outbreak.

We have a list of excludable diseases and current exclusion times. The full list is obtainable from

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities> and includes common childhood illnesses such as measles. A copy is also available at Whitchurch Pre-School, held in the office.

Reporting of 'notifiable diseases'

If a child or adult is diagnosed suffering from a notifiable disease under the Public Health (Notification) Regulations 2010, the GP will report this to the Health Protection Agency.

When we become aware, or are formally informed of the notifiable disease, the Manager will refer to the document 'Health Protection in Schools and other childcare facilities', inform Ofsted and acts on any advice received by the Health Protection Agency or medical practitioner.

HIV/AIDS/Hepatitis procedure

HIV virus, like other viruses such as Hepatitis, (A, B and C) are spread through body fluids. Hygiene precautions for dealing with body fluids are the same for all children and adults. At Whitchurch Pre-School we:

- Wear single use vinyl gloves and aprons when changing children's nappies, pants and clothing that are soiled with blood, urine, faeces or vomit.
- Bag soiled clothing for parents to take home for cleaning.
- Clear spills of blood, urine, faeces or vomit using mild disinfectant solution and mops; any cloths used are disposed of with the clinical waste.
- Clean any tables and other furniture, furnishings or toys affected by blood, urine, faeces or vomit using a disinfectant .

Nits and head lice

Nits and head lice are not an excludable condition, although in exceptional cases a parent may be asked to keep the child away from pre-school until the infestation has cleared. This would only be considered as a last resort should other efforts have failed. We are happy to support families and will offer advice about the treatment of nits and head lice if necessary.

On identifying cases of head lice, all parents are informed and asked to treat their child and all the family if they are found to have head lice.

This policy should be read in conjunction with our Safeguarding Policy and Promoting Health and Hygiene policies.

This policy is reviewed annually, or as deemed necessary.

Policy reviewed and updated.....15/6/18.....(date)

Signed.....H Roberts.....