

<p style="text-align: center;">The Farmhouse Nursery School Sickness and Illness Policy 2020</p>
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Sickness and Illness

Children should not be left at Nursery if they are unwell. If a child is unwell then they will prefer to be at home with their parent(s) rather than at Nursery with their peers. We will follow these procedures to ensure the welfare of all children within the Nursery:

- If a child becomes ill during the Nursery day, their parent(s) will be contacted and asked to pick their child up as soon as possible. During this time the child will be cared for in a quiet, calm area with their key person or alternative / comforting person to the child. If a child has a temperature of 38 degrees or above, then parents will be called to advise that we will administer Calpol, and the child will need picking up. The child should not return to Nursery until they are well again and we would expect this to be after a 48-hour period.
- Should a child have an infectious disease, such as sickness and diarrhoea, they should not return to Nursery until they have been clear for at least 48 hours. Chicken pox, children can return to Nursery once the spots have crusted over. Slapped cheek, children can return to Nursery once cheek

redness and rash has subsided and the child feels well. Please read in conjunction with “Infectious Diseases – Recommended period to be kept away”, and “Health Protection for schools, nurseries and other childcare facilities”.

- It is vital that we follow the advice given to us by our registering authority and exclude specific contagious conditions, e.g. sickness and diarrhoea, conjunctivitis and chicken pox and slapped cheek to protect other children in the nursery. Illnesses of this nature are contagious and it is unfair to expose other children to the risk of an infection.
- If a contagious infection is identified in the Nursery, parents will be informed to enable them to spot the early signs of this illness. All equipment and resources that may have come into contact with a contagious child will be cleaned and sterilised thoroughly to reduce the spread of infection.
- It is important that children are not subjected to the rigours of the Nursery day, which requires socialising with other children and being part of a group setting, when they have first become ill and require a course of antibiotics. Our policy, therefore, is to exclude children on antibiotics for the first 48 hours of the course.
- The Nursery has the right to refuse admission to a child who is unwell. This decision will be taken by the Team Manager on duty and is non-negotiable.
- Information/posters about head lice are readily available on line and all parents are requested to regularly check their children’s hair. If a parent finds that their child has head lice, we would be grateful if they could treat the lice before returning to Nursery, and inform the Nursery so that other parents can be alerted to check their child’s hair.
- Please note that in an emergency situation or if a duty of care scenario occurred, we would administer paracetamol (Calpol) or antihistamine (Piriton) to children whose parents have signed the emergency medicine permission slips.

Meningitis and other notifiable diseases procedure

If a parent informs the Nursery that their child has meningitis or another notifiable disease, the Nursery Team Leader should contact the Infection Control (IC) Nurse for their area, and Ofsted. The IC Nurse will give guidance and support in each individual case. If parents do not inform the Nursery, we will be contacted directly by the IC Nurse and the appropriate support will be given.

Infection Control

Viruses and infections can be easily passed from person to person by breathing in air containing the virus which is produced when an infected person talks, coughs or sneezes. It can also spread through hand/face contact after touching a person or surface contaminated with viruses.

The best way to prevent a virus or infection from moving around the Nursery environment is to maintain high hygiene standards in the Nursery. To do this we will follow the guidance below:

- Ensure all children use tissues when coughing and sneezing to catch all germs
- Ensure all tissues are disposed of in a hygienic way and all children and staff wash their hands once the tissue is disposed of
- Encourage all children to do the above by discussing the need for good hygiene procedures in helping them to stay healthy
- Staff will all wear the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when changing nappies, toileting children and dealing with any other bodily fluids. Staff are requested to dispose of these in the appropriate manner and wash hands immediately
- Changing mats are cleaned and sterilised before and after each use
- Toilets are cleaned at least twice daily
- Staff are to remind children to wash their hands before eating, after visiting the toilet, playing outside or being in contact with any animal and explain the reasons for this
- All toys, equipment and resources will be cleaned on a regular basis by following a comprehensive cleaning rota and using antibacterial cleanser or through washing in the washing machine
- When children are ill we will follow the sickness and illness policy to prevent the spread of any infection in the Nursery. Staff are also requested to stay at home if they are contagious
- The Nursery Manager retains the right of refusal of all children, parents, staff and visitors who are deemed contagious and may impact on the welfare of the rest of the Nursery
- Parents will be made aware of the need for these procedures in order for them to follow these guidelines whilst in the Nursery
- Periodically each room in the Nursery will be deep cleaned including carpets and soft furnishings to ensure the spread of infection is limited. This will be implemented earlier if the need arises
- The Nursery will ensure stocks of tissues, hand washing equipment, cleaning materials are maintained at all times and increased during the winter months or when flu and cold germs are circulating.

Infectious diseases

Children who are unwell should not be at Nursery

Children who are unwell should not be at Nursery. If children are requiring Calpol they should not be in Nursery. Once they are better, they should return unless they pose a risk of infection to others. They should not return to Nursery until the risk has passed.

Please refer to the chart below for guidance on common ailments. This is not designed as a diagnosis.

Condition	Recommended period to be kept away
Chicken pox	All spots to be dried up and crusted over
Conjunctivitis	48 hours from commencing antibiotic treatment
Diarrhoea and / or vomiting	48 hours after last episode has finished
Ear infection	48 hours from commencing antibiotic treatment
German measles	Five days from onset of rash
Hand, foot and mouth	Until all spots have dried up
Head lice / threadworms	Until treated
Impetigo	Until lesions are crusted or healed
Measles	Five days from onset of rash
Mumps	Five days from onset of swollen glands
Scabies	Until treated successfully
Scarlet fever	Five days from commencing antibiotics
Slapped cheek	Until red cheeks and rash has subsided and the infection has cleared up
Temperature	Until temperature is below 38 degrees without medication
Whooping cough	Five days from commencing antibiotics

This list is not exhaustive. If in doubt seek medical advice and do not return child to Nursery until they are feeling well again. Please also refer to "Health Protection for schools, nurseries and other childcare facilities" (PHE publication 2017) for infectious diseases not listed above.

Transporting children to hospital procedure

- If the sickness is severe, call for an ambulance immediately. DO NOT attempt to transport the sick child in your own vehicle
- Whilst waiting for the ambulance, contact the parent and arrange to meet them at the hospital

- A senior member of staff must accompany the child and collect together registration forms, relevant medication sheets, medication and the child's comforter. A member of the management team must also be informed immediately
- Remain calm at all times. Children who witness an incident may well be affected by it and may need lots of cuddles and reassurance.

Medication

We promote the good health of children attending Nursery and take necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection. If a child requires medicine we will obtain information about the child's needs for this, and will ensure this information is kept up-to-date.

When dealing with medication of any kind in the Nursery, strict guidelines will be followed.

Prescription medication

- Prescription medicine will only be given to the person named on the bottle for the dosage stated
- Medicines must be in their original containers and clearly labelled with the child's name
- Those with parental responsibility of any child requiring prescription medication should allow a senior member of staff to have sight of the bottle
- Those with parental responsibility must give prior written permission for the administration of each and every medication. However, we will accept written permission once for a whole course of medication or for the ongoing use of a particular medication under the following circumstances:
 1. The written permission is only acceptable for that brand name of medication and cannot be used for similar types of medication, e.g. if the course of antibiotics changes, a new form will need to be completed
 2. The dosage on the written permission is the only dosage that will be administered. We will not give a different dose unless a new form is completed
 3. Parents should notify us IMMEDIATELY if the child's circumstances change, e.g. a dose has been given at home, or a change in strength/dose needs to be given and a replacement medication form is completed.
- The parent must be asked when the child had last been given the medication before coming to Nursery; this information will be recorded on the medication form. Similarly, when the child is picked up, the parent or guardian must be given precise details of the times and dosage given throughout the day. The parent's signature must be obtained at both times

- At the time of administering the medicine, a member of staff and a staff witness will ask the child to take the medicine, or offer it in a manner acceptable to the child at the prescribed time and in the prescribed form. (It is important to note that staff working with children are not legally obliged to administer medication)
- If the child refuses to take the appropriate medication, then a note will be made on the form
- Where medication is “essential” or may have side effects, discussion with the parent will take place to establish the appropriate response
- Wherever possible ask parents to request that GPs prescribe the least number of doses per day, i.e. three x daily, rather than four x daily.
- The nursery DOES NOT administer any medication unless prior written consent is given for each and every medicine, except in the case of emergency medication as detailed below.

Emergency medication

- In the event of an emergency situation, paracetamol, piriton etc would be administered.
- Parents would be called prior to administering for permission. Parents will be required to sign the medication form on collecting their child.

Non-prescription medication

- The Nursery will not administer non-prescription medication.
- For any non-prescription cream for skin conditions e.g. Sudocreme, prior written permission must be obtained from the parent and the onus is on the parent to provide the cream which should be clearly labelled with the child’s name
- If any child is brought to the Nursery in a condition in which he/she may require medication sometime during the day, the Manager will decide if the child is fit to be left at the Nursery. If the child is staying, the parent must return to the Nursery to administer appropriate non-prescription medication.
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Injections, pessaries, suppositories

As the administration of pessaries and suppositories represents intrusive nursing, they should not be administered by any member of staff. Insulin injections will only be administered after appropriate training.

Staff medication

The first aid box for staff is kept in a readily accessible position, but out of reach of the children.

First aid boxes contain items permitted by the Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations Act 1981, such as sterile dressing, bandages, and eye pads. No other medical items, such as paracetamol should be kept in the first aid box.

Storage of medication

Emergency medication, such as inhalers and epipens, is within easy reach of staff in case of an immediate need, but will remain out of children's reach and under supervision at all times.

Any antibiotics requiring refrigeration must be kept in an area inaccessible to children.

All prescription medications must be in their original containers, legible and not tampered with or they will not be given. All prescription medications should have the pharmacist's details and notes attached to show the dosage needed and the date the prescription was issued. This will all be checked, along with expiry dates, before staff agree to administer medication.

Allergies and allergic reactions

At The Farmhouse Nursery School, we are aware that children can have allergies which may cause allergic reactions. We will follow this policy to ensure allergic reactions are minimised or where possible prevented and staff are fully aware of how to support a child who may be having an allergic reaction.

- Staff will be made aware of the signs and symptoms of a possible allergic reaction in case of an unknown or first reaction in a child. These may include a rash or hives, nausea, stomach pain, diarrhoea, itchy skin, runny eyes, shortness of breath, chest pain, swelling of the mouth or tongue, swelling to the airways to the lungs, wheezing and anaphylaxis
- Information will be passed on by parents from the registration form regarding allergic reactions and allergies and must be shared with all staff in the Nursery
- An allergy register will be kept in The Red room and Kitchen
- The Nursery Manager must carry out a full Allergy Risk Assessment Procedure with the parent prior to the child starting the Nursery. The information must then be shared with all staff

- All food prepared for a child with a specific allergy will be prepared in an area where there is no chance of contamination and served on equipment that has not been in contact with this specific food type, e.g. nuts
- The Manager, staff and parents will work together to ensure a child with specific food allergies receives no food at Nursery that may harm them. This may include designing an appropriate menu or substituting specific meals on the current Nursery menu
- If a child has an allergic reaction to food, a bee sting, plant etc. a first aid trained member of staff will act quickly and administer the appropriate treatment. Parents must be informed and it must be recorded in the incident book
- If this treatment requires specialist treatment, e.g. an epipen, then at least two members of staff working directly with the child and the Manager will receive specific medical training to be able to administer the treatment to each individual child
- A sick child above all needs their family; therefore every effort should be made to contact a family member as soon as possible
- If the allergic reaction is severe a member of staff will summon an ambulance immediately. We WILL NOT attempt to transport the sick/injured child in our own vehicles
- All parents sign permission slips to allow Piriton or Calpol to be given in the event of an emergency.
- Whilst waiting for the ambulance, we will contact the emergency contact and arrange to meet them at the hospital
- A senior member of staff must accompany the child and collect together registration forms, relevant medication sheets, medication and child's comforter
- Staff must remain calm at all times; children who witness an allergic reaction may well be affected by it and may need lots of cuddles and reassurance
- All incidents will be recorded, shared and signed by parents at the earliest opportunity.

Immunisation

We recognise, where possible, that children are vaccinated in accordance with their age. If children are not vaccinated, it is the responsibility of the parents to inform the Nursery to ensure that children/staff/parents are not exposed to any unnecessary risks of any sort. The Nursery Manager must be aware of any children who are not vaccinated within the Nursery in accordance with their age.

Parents need to be aware that some children will not be vaccinated in the Nursery. This may be due to their age, medical reasons or parental choice. Our Nursery does not discriminate against children who have not received their immunisations and will not disclose individual details to other parents.

Information regarding immunisations will be recorded on children's registration documents and should be updated as and when necessary, including when the child reaches the age for the appropriate immunisations.

Staff vaccinations policy

It is the responsibility of all staff to ensure they keep up-to-date with their vaccinations for:

- Tetanus
- Tuberculosis
- Rubella
- Hepatitis
- Polio.

If a member of staff is unsure as to whether they are up-to-date, then we recommend that they visit their GP or practice nurse for their own good health.

Emergency information

Emergency information must be kept for every child and should be updated every six months with regular reminders to parents in newsletters, at parents' evenings and a reminder notice on the Parent Information Board.

Children Who Are Infected With A Blood-Borne Virus

Children who are HIV positive, or who carry any other blood borne virus will not be excluded from the Farmhouse Nursery or be treated differently from the other children in The Nursery.

Staff practice a good standard of hygiene at all times with all children in The Nursery to prevent the transmission of infection. This includes the disposal of gloves, clothes, etc.

Any parent/carer who informs Jess Bowerman that their child has been in contact with HIV virus, or who has a blood borne virus, will be sure that only the Nursery staff responsible for that child will have this information. They will make sure that this information remains confidential at all times and this will not be used as general information in The Nursery.

All staff are aware that each child in the Nursery will receive a positive and caring attitude whatever their situation. Parents/carers can rest assured that the trust between staff and themselves will not be affected.

Internal use only

This policy was amended on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
25/02/2020	Jess Bowerman	February 2021