**St Joseph’s Preschool Playgroup**

**Risk Assessment during the Coronavirus Pandemic Date: 6.9.21**

We have taken into account guidelines from Public Health England and the Department for Education as well considering the particular issues faced by our setting and staff team. We will be reviewing this Risk Assessment regularly and will amend as required.

The fundamental principle is to keep children and staff safe, and to minimise the risks involved with such young children as far as possible, within the constraints of the resources available to us, including the human resources.

**Overall area of concern: *The risk of catching and transmitting Covid 19 including new variants***

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| People involved | Risk level (after controls have been put in place) | Control measures |
|  |  | *health issues* |
| Children | LOW | * Only children who are symptom free or have completed the required isolation period should attend the setting. * We will be taking temperatures of children as necessary during the day. * Children who are in a vulnerable health group will be assessed to determine whether we feel it is safe to admit them without putting them in at additional risk * Symptomatic children should be tested and the results shared with us * If anyone (child or adult) tests positive, they must follow the advice given by NHS Test and Trace or other relevant government body * Children under the age of 18 years old and adults who have been double-vaccinated (at least 2 weeks prior to being contacted by the NHS), will no longer be required to self-isolate, however, if someone in your household tests positive we would request you to get a PCR test for your child before sending them to preschool * In the event of a child developing suspected coronavirus symptoms whilst attending the setting, they should be collected as soon as possible (ideally within half an hour) and isolate at home in line with PHE/NHS guidance * Whilst waiting for the child to be collected they will be isolated from others in a previously identified area (the lobby if at all possible). If possible, a window or door should be opened for ventilation * A face mask will be worn by the staff member if two metres cannot be maintained with the child. If contact or personal care for the child is necessary, gloves, an apron and a face mask will be worn. If a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, for example from coughing, spitting, or vomiting, then eye protection will also be worn. * The area will be thoroughly cleaned, immediately if the area cannot be left unvisited, and if the area can be left unvisited then cleaned after 72 hours * The person responsible for cleaning the area should wear appropriate PPE * A trained paediatric first aider will be present at all times * Families and children who have been travelling abroad must follow the rules on arriving in England following international travel, as set out in red, amber and green list rules for entering England. |
|  | *Social distancing* |
| LOW | * We will use the outside area as much as possible, as there is more space per child and because we know the risks of transmission are lower outdoors |
|  | *Hygiene* |
| LOW | * We will implement a rigorous cleaning regime including cleaning of frequently touched surfaces during the day (door handles, other surfaces etc) and a thorough weekly clean * We will ensure the children wash their hands frequently e.g. on entry, before food, after using the toilet, after being seen touching their face, after coughing and sneezing * We will include regular reminders (and ask parents to do the same) about the importance of hand washing, procedures for coughing and sneezing etc * Snacks provided for the children will be distributed on individual bowls/plates rather than children putting their hands in a communal bowl * Where comforters are brought in, they will be kept in the child’s bag for use only when staff deem this to be essential. They will be taken home by parents and cleaned appropriately each day * Children will be reminded of key messages eg ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’: children will be reminded not to put hands/fingers in mouth/nose/eyes. |
|  |  | *Health issues* |
| Staff | LOW | * Staff have access to Lateral Flow Device tests and will be testing themselves twice a week. The results will be reported to the setting as well as logged online. * Any positive test will need to be confirmed with a PCR test. The staff member will be required to self isolate while waiting for the PCR test and result. * Staff should only attend for work if they are symptom free, have completed the required isolation period or achieved a negative test result. * In the event of a staff member developing suspected coronavirus symptoms whilst working, they should return home immediately and isolate at home in line with the NHS guidance and arrange a test * If anyone (child or adult) tests positive, they must follow the advice given by NHS Test and Trace or other relevant government body * Children under the age of 18 years old and adults who have been double-vaccinated (at least 2 weeks prior to being contacted by the NHS), will no longer be required to self-isolate, however, if someone in your household tests positive we require you to get a PCR test before returning to work * Staff who have been travelling abroad must follow the rules on arriving in England following international travel, as set out in red, amber and green list rules for entering England. |
|  |  | *Social distancing* |
|  | LOW | * Staff will socially distance from parents whenever possible * Breaks will be staggered to reduce contact between staff |
|  |  | *hygiene* |
|  | LOW | * Staff will wash their hands on entry to the setting * Staff will wash hands before eating, before preparing food, after using the bathroom, before and after assisting a child with personal care such as nappy changing * Staff will use hand gel when necessary to supplement hand washing and replace it where hand washing is not possible * Staff will use disposable gloves when unavoidable close contact with a child is required * Other PPE will be used by staff if appropriate and possible * Staff will monitor the stocks of PPE and report any shortages so that the supply can be maintained effectively * staff will implement a rigorous cleaning regime including cleaning of frequently touched surfaces during the day (door handles, surface, toys and other resources etc) and a thorough weekly clean * waste will be disposed of carefully and promptly, at least daily * we have a foot pedal bin available for tissues |
|  |  | *transport* |
|  | LOW | * + staff will be encouraged to wear masks on public transport where there is no alternative but to use it |
| Parents |  | *Health issues* |
|  | LOW | * Only parents who are symptom free and or have completed the required isolation periods will be able to drop off or collect their child * Parents must comply with government guidance on self-isolation * Families and children who have been travelling abroad must follow the rules on arriving in England following international travel, as set out in red, amber and green list rules for entering England. |
|  |  | *social distancing* |
|  | LOW | * Parents will drop children on the decking, and will not be allowed to enter the building unless in exceptional circumstances, and agreed with a senior member of staff * Parents will collect children from the decking as above * When parents are waiting to drop off or collect their child, social distancing should be maintained |
|  |  | *transport* |
|  | LOW | * + Parents will be encouraged to wear masks on public transport if they do need to use it |
| All |  | *General issues/Visits* |
|  | LOW | * Parents will be required to agree to the measures being taken, including measures they must take themselves, in order to work together with staff to minimise the risks around COVID 19 * We will keep windows and doors open when possible to ensure ventilation * Visitors will be expected to adhere to relevant COVID measures * Visits from prospective parents will be conducted outside core opening hours where possible, or outside, and parents will be expected to adhere to relevant COVID measures * We will only operate with essential supplies required for ensuring infection control * Apart from temporary absence due to illness, a safeguarding lead will be present at all times. |