

**St Joseph’s Pre-school Playgroup**

**Sickness and Medication Policy**

**COVID**

**We continue to take guidance from the government and NHS to formulate our COVID procedures.**

Current NHS guidance states that symptoms of Covid-19 can include:

* a high temperature or shivering (chills) – a high temperature means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
* a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
* a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste
* shortness of breath
* feeling tired or exhausted
* an aching body
* a headache
* a sore throat
* a blocked or runny nose
* loss of appetite
* diarrhoea
* feeling sick or being sick.

**If my child is experiencing Covid-19 symptoms, can they attend preschool?**

We are following government guidance which states that:

children should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people if they have symptoms of COVID-19 and they either:

* have a high temperature
* do not feel well enough to go to preschool or do their normal activities.

**If my child has tested positive for Covid-19, do they have to isolate?**

For children and young people under 18, the advice is to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days, starting from the day after the positive test. After 3 days, if they don’t have a temperature and they are well in themselves, they can return to preschool.

**Administration of medication**

* Prescribed medication must be in-date and prescribed for the current condition.
* Children taking prescribed medication must be well enough to attend the setting.
* Children's prescribed drugs are stored in their original containers, are clearly labelled and are inaccessible to the children.
* Parents give prior written permission for the administration of medication. This states the name of the child, name/s of parent(s), date the medication starts, the name of the medication and name of the prescribing doctor, pharmacist, nurse or dentist, the dose and times, and how and when the medication is to be administered.
* The administration is recorded accurately each time it is given and is signed by staff. Parents sign the record sheet to acknowledge the administration of a medicine.
* If the administration of prescribed medication requires medical knowledge, individual training is provided for the relevant member of staff by a health professional.
* We will avoid giving paracetamol or similar medication, as children who are unwell and requiring this should not normally be attending. Children’s paracetamol (un-prescribed) is usually only administered for children in exceptional circumstances, with the verbal consent of the parents, usually in the case of a child developing a high temperature once they are at the preschool (exceeding 38c). This is to prevent in most cases, febrile convulsion and where a parent or named person is on their way to collect the child.

**Sickness/illness**

* We do not provide care for children who are unwell, have a temperature, or sickness and diarrhoea, or who have an infectious disease.
* **Parents are advised that children who have had sickness and diarrhoea need to remain away from the setting for 48 hours after the last bout.**
* Children with headlice are not excluded but must be treated to remedy the condition.
* Parents are notified as necessary if there is a case of headlice in the setting and information on treating the scalp is available.
* Parents are notified if there is an infectious disease, such as chicken pox.
* HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) may affect children or families attending the setting. Staff may or may not be informed about it.
* Children or families are not excluded because of HIV.
* Good hygiene practice concerning the clearing of any spilled bodily fluids is always carried out.
* Ofsted is notified of any infectious diseases that a qualified medical person considers notifiable.

Signed on behalf of St Joseph’s Pre-school Playgroup Limited:

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Role: Manager

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