



Plymouth Nursery Schools Federation

Managing Children who are Sick, Infectious or with Allergies Policy

Headteacher

Dated

Chair of Governors

Dated

Review date - February 2025

To be Reviewed- February 2027

Policy statement

We aim to provide care for healthy children through preventing cross infection of viruses and bacterial infections and by promoting health through identifying allergies and preventing contact with the allergenic trigger.

Procedures for children who are sick or infectious:

- If children appear unwell during the day – for example, if they have a temperature, sickness, diarrhoea or pains, particularly in the head or stomach, staff will call the parents and ask them to collect the child, or to send a known carer to collect the child on their behalf and seek medical advice.
- All actions taken to care for a child who appears unwell are recorded and shared with their parent / carer on collection.
- If a child has a temperature, they are kept cool, by removing top clothing and sponging their heads with cool water but kept away from draughts.
- The child's temperature is taken using a thermometer, kept in the first aid box.
- If the child's temperature does not go down and is worryingly high, then we may give them Calpol or another similar analgesic, after first obtaining verbal consent from the parent where possible. This is to reduce the risk of febrile convulsions, particularly for babies. Parents sign the medication record when they collect their child.
- Written agreement to use infant oral paracetamol suspension in an emergency, ie to reduce a child's high temperature and prevent febrile convulsion, will be obtained from parents on enrolment. The wishes of parents who do not agree for infant oral paracetamol suspension to be used in such a way or who have specific requirements will also be recorded on enrolment and always be adhered to. This must be communicated to all staff caring for the child.
- In extreme cases of emergency, an ambulance will be called and the parent informed.
- Parents are asked to take their child to the doctor before returning them to the setting; we can refuse admittance to children who have a temperature, sickness and diarrhoea or a contagious infection or disease if there is concern that the child is not well enough to access the provision or could spread an infection to other children or staff.
- Where children have been prescribed antibiotics for an infectious illness or complaint, we ask parents to keep them at home for 48 hours before returning to the setting.

Plymouth Nursery Schools Federation

Not Protectively Marked.

- After sickness and diarrhoea, we ask parents to keep children home for 48 hours following the last episode.
- 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 on display in our office and first aid areas. We also refer to the gov.uk 'Managing specific infectious diseases: A-Z' when appropriate. A full list of exclusion periods is obtainable from www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities and includes common childhood illnesses such as measles.

Reporting of 'notifiable diseases':

- If a child or adult is diagnosed as suffering from a notifiable disease under the Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010, the GP will report this to Public Health England.
- When we become aware, or are formally informed of the notifiable disease, the Headteacher or their representative will inform Ofsted and contacts Public Health England. We will action any advice given.

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. 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 (or dispose of these in a nappy bin if appropriate).
- 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 we may ask a parent to keep the child away until the infestation has cleared.

Plymouth Nursery Schools Federation

Not Protectively Marked.

- On identifying cases of head lice, we inform all parents and ask them to treat their child and all the family if they are found to have head lice.

Procedures for children with allergies:

- When children start at the setting we ask their parents if their child suffers from any known allergies. This is recorded on the Registration Form.
- If a child has an allergy, we will discuss together how to effectively manage the risk. Where appropriate a risk assessment will be undertaken to include:
 - 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 measures.
- This risk assessment form is kept in the child's personal file and a copy is displayed where our staff can see it.
- A list of children with food allergies is available to staff in the snack and lunch areas. Staff are vigilant to check this before preparing and facilitating snack or lunches. This is updated whenever new children start or a new allergy is reported.
- Generally, no nuts or nut products are used within the setting. Where we have children with a nut allergy, key information is shared within the staff team before the child starts to ensure that everyone is aware of how to avoid triggers, how to identify the signs and symptoms of a reaction and what to do in the event of a reaction.
- Parents are made aware so that no nut or nut products are accidentally brought in, for example to a party.

Related policies / documents:

Child Protection and Safeguarding

Risk Assessment

Plymouth Nursery Schools Federation

Not Protectively Marked.

Administering Medication

Supporting Children with Medical Needs

Adopted by the Governing Body 6th February 2025:

Signed:

Chair of Governors

Review schedule: Every 2 years.

Next review: February 2027.