



III Child Policy

Aim:

It is our aim at Little Acorns to promote the health and well-being of every child in our Pre-School. Staff are involved in all aspects of care for the children including the provision of healthy environments. While staff care for every child and develop strong bonds with their key children; we recognise that during times of ill health and sickness Pre-School is not the best environment for young children and it may become necessary for children to spend some time at home to rest and recuperate.

In the event of a child becoming ill, staff will carry out the following procedure to determine the best course of action for the individual child.

- Staff monitor the general health of children through observation and spending time with each child during their Pre-School session.
- If a child begins to appear unwell, staff will look for particular signs which may include the child being unusually quiet, looking unwell, hot to touch or complaining of feeling unwell.
- Staff will check the child's temperature (where appropriate) with the Pre-School infra red thermometer.
- Where the child has a raised temperature, staff will endeavour to cool the child down using cold compresses, removal of outer layers of clothes, providing fluids and opening windows if necessary. During this time a senior member of staff will contact the child's parents/carers to discuss the situation.
- If a child displays other signs and symptoms of ill health, staff will try to ensure the child is comfortable and a senior member of staff will contact the child's parents/carers to discuss the child's symptoms.
- A decision will be made to continue to observe the child or to request that the child is taken home from Pre-School.
- Where a child has been sick or has diarrhoea their parents/carers will be called and asked to take the child home. *There is a 48 hour exclusion from Pre-School for all children and staff following the last episode of sickness or diarrhoea*
- In case of an emergency staff may have to make the decision to contact the emergency services prior to contacting the child's parents/carers. Where this is the case, the child's parents/carers will be contacted by a member of staff as soon as possible with a clear and calm description of what has happened and where the child is.
- Staff will follow the Public Health Agency 'Guidance on infection control in schools and other childcare settings' to determine what action should be taken for specific illnesses and infections. (Poster on office board)



- To prevent further contamination and the spread of illness, Little Acorns Pre-School have a cleaning procedure, which is supplemented with additional cleaning should there be an outbreak or concern of an illness spreading. A deep clean of toys and the Pre-School environment takes place termly. Carpets and hard floors are professionally cleaned each year, or as deemed necessary.*

This policy should be read alongside safeguarding and administering medication policies.

*During the Covid-19 pandemic, please also see the Covid-19 supplementary policy, covering additional procedures in place until further notice (ongoing 2021-2022).

This policy was adopted at a meeting of Little Acorns @ Our Lady & St Oswald's Pre School held on (Date).....

Signed on behalf of management committee.....

Role of signatory.....

Term to be reviewed.....