

General Welfare Requirement: Safeguarding and Promoting Children's Welfare

The provider must promote the good health of the children, take necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection, and take appropriate action when they are ill.

Promoting Health and Hygiene:

Coronavirus (Covid 19) and other significant Respiratory Illnesses Policy

While there are no longer specific COVID-19 restrictions for early years settings in the UK, we must follow general infection control procedures for all respiratory illnesses

The most current government guidance for early years settings in 2025 focuses on general health protection measures, and on managing staff and children who are unwell with symptoms of a respiratory infection.

The relevant guidance from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), as confirmed by the Early Years Alliance, includes the following advice for early years settings, schools, and colleges:

Key guidance for respiratory infections (including COVID-19)

- Children and young people with a high temperature who feel unwell should stay home until their temperature is normal and they feel well enough to return.
- Children who test positive for COVID-19 are advised by the UKHSA to try and stay home for three days.
- Adults, including staff, who test positive for COVID-19 are advised to try and stay home for five days.
- Children with mild symptoms like a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough can still attend if they are otherwise well.

Core infection control measures

We will maintain baseline infection prevention measures against various infections, including COVID-19. These include good hygiene, such as regular hand washing and cleaning, and ensuring good ventilation with fresh air in indoor spaces. Additionally, promoting vaccinations for COVID-19, flu, and other respiratory viruses is recommended for eligible staff and parents.

Aim of Policy

This Policy defines and assists the operating arrangements in place within the preschool that assures compliance to the Government and leading bodies requirements with relation to the outbreak of a pandemic such as Covid19. This information builds upon our current procedures for areas such as Safeguarding, Child Protection and Equality and Diversity. If new guidelines are

issued by the UK Government or Public Health Agency, new precautionary measures will be introduced and new practices will be considered and this policy will be updated with immediate effect.

Method

At St John's Preschool we ensure to offer a continuum of very high standards of practice of childcare and education. The fundamental principles outlined in this policy are set out to ensure physical distancing is enabled and implement good hygiene practices as well as avoiding coming into contact with infected children and adults or anyone displaying symptoms. We will put protective measures in place for children, parents and staff as best as possible to ensure the risk of transmission is reduced. We will continue to follow our other policies as long as they do not conflict with this policy and be guided by the EYFS as best as we can. The main areas we will be considering are:

- Minimising contact with individuals who are unwell
- Maintaining personal and respiratory hygiene (handwashing, catch it, kill it, bin it)
- Ensuring cleanliness of the environment (especially frequently touched surfaces)
- Minimising general contact and mixing (creating bubbles and limiting numbers)
- The use of Protective and Personal Equipment (PPE)
- Testing

Our Exclusion Policy.

- 1) Ensure we retrain all colleagues on their return to work to ensure they have remembered the safety measures and hygiene practices we put in place. This is to continue to reduce the spread of infection.
- 2) Ensure we communicate our safety measures to parents so they can make an informed decision if to leave their child in care and equally on doing so, are clear what our policies and procedures are, including but not exclusive to our exclusion policy and self-isolation periods.

To summarise: risk assessments for opening of the workplace or a return to work must:

- meet the "suitable and sufficient" criteria in that they identify foreseeable hazards, evaluate risks and implement the risk control measures that reduce risks by following best practice
- risk assessments to be completed by competent persons (i.e. those with the skills, knowledge and experience to do so) but with input from others familiar with the setting such as the committee chairperson and person responsible to Ofsted.
- communicate outcomes to colleagues and others in terms of residual risks and risk control measures to be adopted
- be reviewed where there is "significant change" in matters to which the risk assessment relates or

where it is suspected the risk assessment is no longer valid.

Colleagues Duties

- 1) Take reasonable care of their own health and safety and that of other people who may be affected by their work. This means reporting any signs of Covid-19 or other notable respiratory pandemics to the manager / chairperson
- 2) Remain up to date on latest guidance from the government on symptoms. Declare on returning to work whether you have displayed symptoms or been exposed to Covid-19 within your household. This is declared on returning to work and it is all colleagues responsibility to notify the setting if circumstances change, through your manager / person in charge.
- 3) On returning to work take time to understand the 'new normal' and ensure you follow all procedures in place. This includes but not exclusive to your social responsibility when travelling to work, cleaning regularly and keeping up to date on latest guidance and applying it, and continuing to be mindful of the risks outside of work, unless the government notify us of a change.

We ask that any child, member of staff, parent or visitor does not attend our provision until they have met the government guidelines on being free from Covid. The children and staff will be washing hands thoroughly and frequently for 20 seconds with soap or water. Staff will also use alcohol hand rub or hand sanitiser if they wish. Catching coughs and sneezes in a tissue, putting the tissue in a bin straight away and cleaning frequently-touched surfaces. We will closely consider which activities are suitable to deliver, and which could take place outdoors.

If a child appears generally unwell, we reserve the right to ask parents/carers to collect their child. This is to minimise the risk of any kind of infection that another child or member of staff may contract. If your child becomes unwell, we will call you immediately, we would expect that you will collect them within 30-40 minutes of us calling you. No parent should knowingly bring their child in if they suspect they have a temperature or are generally unwell. No child will be admitted that has had Calpol or a similar medicinal suppressant.

Infection control measures

- good basic hygiene practices such as regular hand-washing (adults and children)
- supervise young children to ensure they wash their hands for 20 seconds more often than usual with soap and water
- clean and disinfect regularly touched objects and surfaces more often than usual using your standard cleaning products
- waterproof dressing to cover on any existing wounds or lesions
- personal protective equipment (PPE) such as aprons and gloves will be used as necessary
- clear procedures are in place for cleaning equipment and wider environment
- immediate cleaning of spillages of blood and other bodily fluids
- clear procedures on safe disposal of waste
- infection control guidance and management procedures in place which are clearly understood and adhered to by staff
- any items that come into contact with mouths such as cups, bottles and straws should not be shared.

Handwashing

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) advises that hand hygiene is one of the most important ways of controlling the spread of infections, especially those that cause diarrhoea or vomiting and respiratory infections.

You should remind children to wash their hands:

- after outside break
- before meals and snack times
- after using the toilet
- when children arrive at your setting
- at the end of the day before they go home.

Ventilation

Good ventilation can help reduce the risk of spreading air-borne viruses, so a focus on improving general air flow, preferably through fresh air or effective mechanical systems, can help to create a safer environment for staff and children.

We will ensure our setting is well ventilated and that a comfortable environment is maintained.

We will identify any poorly ventilated spaces as part of your risk assessment and take steps to improve fresh air flow in these areas, giving particular consideration when holding events where visitors such as parents and carers are on site; for example, for a show or play.

Where it is safe to do so, opening external windows can improve natural ventilation and, in addition, opening internal doors, can also assist with creating a throughput of air. If necessary, external opening doors may also be used (if they are not fire doors and where safe to do so).

Further information.

Members of staff with underlying health conditions.

Staff members who are clinically extremely vulnerable – such as those with specific cancers or with severe respiratory conditions such as cystic fibrosis may refer to their GP for advice since shielding advice was paused on 1st April 2021

This policy was adopted at a meeting of

Held on

(date)

Date to be reviewed

(date)

Signed on behalf of the management
committee

Name of signatory

Role of signatory (e.g. chair/owner)