

ILLNESS AND SICKNESS POLICY

At Hopes and Dreams Nursery School, we promote the good health of all children attending. To help keep all children healthy and minimise infection, we cannot accept children to attend Nursery School if they are unwell. If a child is unwell, it is in their best interest to be in a home environment with adults they know well rather than at Nursery School with their peers. We will follow these procedures to ensure the welfare of all children within the Nursery School:

- Parents are asked not to bring any child/children into the Nursery School who have an infectious disease or shows signs of the following:
 - an eye infection
 - ear infection
 - conjunctivitis
 - vomiting and/or diarrhea
 - fever
- **FEVER:** If a child has fever for more than 3 consecutive days at Nursery School, parents are asked to keep their child at home until they are fever free for at least 24 hours. This is because it is important that children are not subjected to the rigours of the nursery day when they are unwell, which requires socialising with other children and being part of a group setting.
- **INFECTIOUS DISEASE:** Should a child have an infectious disease, such as vomiting and diarrhoea, eye/ear infection, or conjunctivitis, they must not return to Nursery School until they have been clear of any symptoms for at least 48 hours. We inform parents if there is a contagious infection identified in the Nursery School by displaying posters at the entrance, to enable them to spot the early signs of this illness. We thoroughly clean and sterilise all equipment and resources that may have come into contact with a contagious child to reduce the spread of infection
- **ANTIBIOTICS:** We exclude all children on antibiotics for the first 24 hours of the course (unless this is part of an ongoing care plan to treat individual medical conditions e.g. asthma and the child is not unwell). This is because it is important that antibiotics take effect and children are allowed to rest when they have first become ill and require a course of antibiotics.
- **HEAD LICE:** We make information/posters about head lice readily available and all parents are requested to regularly check their children's hair. If a parent finds that their child has head lice we would be grateful if they could inform the Nursery School so that other parents can be alerted to check their children's hair.

- **GUIDANCE:** The Nursery School follows the guidance given to the Nursery School by Public Health England (formerly the Health Protection Agency) in Guidance on Infection Control in Schools and other Child Care Settings and advice from our local health protection unit on exclusion times for specific illnesses, e.g. sickness and diarrhoea, measles, and chicken pox, to protect other children in the Nursery School.
- If a child becomes ill during the day, we contact their parent(s) and ask them to pick up their child as soon as possible. During this time we care for the child in a quiet, calm area with their key person, wherever possible.
- The Nursery School has the right to refuse admission to a child who is unwell. This decision will be taken by the Nursery Manager on duty and is non-negotiable.

Meningitis Procedure

If a parent informs the Nursery School that their child has meningitis, the Nursery Manager on duty will contact the Infection Control (IC) Nurse for their area. The IC Nurse will give guidance and support in each individual case. If parents do not inform the Nursery School, we will be contacted directly by the IC Nurse and the appropriate support will be given. We will follow all guidance given and notify any of the appropriate authorities including Ofsted if necessary.

Communicable Diseases

Ofsted must be notified of any communicable diseases as defined by the Health Protection Agency: PHE North East and North Central London Health Protection Team, Ground Floor South Wing, Fleetbank House 2-6 Salisbury Square, London, EC4Y 8JX Tel: **020 3837 7084** (option 1), Fax: 020 3837 7086. Out of hours for health professionals only: 020 7191 1860.

- Acute encephalitis
- Acute infectious hepatitis
- Acute meningitis
- Acute poliomyelitis
- Anthrax
- Botulism
- Brucellosis
- Cholera
- COVID-19
- Diphtheria
- Enteric fever (typhoid or paratyphoid fever)
- Food poisoning
- Haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS)
- Infectious bloody diarrhoea
- Invasive group A streptococcal disease
- Legionnaires' disease
- Leprosy
- Malaria
- Measles
- Meningococcal septicaemia
- Mumps
- Plague
- Rabies

- Rubella
- Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)
- Scarlet fever
- Smallpox
- Tetanus
- Tuberculosis
- Typhus
- Viral haemorrhagic fever (VHF)
- Whooping cough
- Yellow fever

Reviewed on: June 2020

Signed on behalf of the Nursery School: *Mikki Parkes*

Next Review Date: June 2021