

## **Sheffield Hallam University Nursery**

### **Managing Sickness and Illness in Children Policy** **including exclusions and time periods**

The Nurseries do not aim to exclude children from the nursery unnecessarily. We recognise that small children may suffer from coughs and colds and still be able to attend the nursery. However, sometimes children become too ill to attend or stay at nursery.

The decision of the Head of Service/deputy manager is final when requesting the exclusion of a child for illness or infection. In deciding we consider the needs of the child, group and staff as a whole.

Sick children cannot be admitted to the Nursery. If a child becomes ill at nursery, staff will inform parents or an emergency contact. If a child is lethargic, unhappy and does not engage in any play because they are unwell (even without a temperature) parents will be contacted to collect their child. While waiting for parents to arrive, the staff will make sure the child is comforted and reassured.

#### **Parental Collection Requirement**

In the interest of maintaining a safe and healthy environment for all children and staff, the setting reserves the right to request that a child be collected immediately if deemed necessary by the Manager. This may include, but is not limited to, instances where a child displays symptoms of illness, becomes distressed or unwell during the day, or poses a risk to the wellbeing of others.

Parents or carers must ensure they are always contactable and able to arrange prompt collection when requested. Failure to do so may result in temporary exclusion until suitable arrangements are in place.

#### **Diarrhoea and Sickness**

If a child or staff member has diarrhoea and sickness they will not be permitted to come to nursery. There is an **exclusion period of 48 hours from the last episode** of illness.

Diarrhoea itself is not reportable, unless it is part of a suspected outbreak of a notifiable disease (like E. coli, Salmonella, Norovirus, Shigella, Giardia), where it must be reported to the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-health-security-agency>

#### **Children and antibiotics**

Children who have been prescribed antibiotics will **not be admitted to nursery for 24 hours after the first dose**. This allows for the medication to begin to make the child feel better and allows for any developing allergies due to the medication to be discovered.

#### **Head Lice**

In the case of infestations, such as head lice, staff will inform parents of the problem and advise them how to proceed. If children have head lice parents must not bring them back to the nursery unless they have been **treated or all trace of eggs has gone**.

## **Reporting and Recording**

Staff will report concerns about a child's health to the parents/guardians immediately. Any illness and action taken will be noted in the child's Health and Welfare Record. A manager will counter sign the form which will be shared with parents, who are required to sign the form upon collection of their child.

Parents are responsible for keeping the Nursery informed if they become aware of any changes in the child's health.

## **Emergency Medication**

The nursery can supply emergency paracetamol (e.g. Calpol) but parents must sign the Emergency Paracetamol form in advance (see Medication policy).

## **Infectious or contagious diseases**

Children with infectious or contagious diseases will be excluded for certain periods. If we suspect that a child has an infectious or contagious disease, they will request that parents consult a doctor before returning the child to the Nursery.

### **In the case of contagious diseases**

Staff may seek advice in accordance with the Health Protection Yorkshire and Humber Team. Yorkshire and Humber HPT  
Blenheim House, West One Duncombe Street  
Leeds  
LS1 4PL  
Telephone: 0300 303 0234

If the child is in danger, the staff will seek further medical advice immediately.

If a child becomes ill at nursery with a contagious illness, all equipment and resources that may have come into contact with a contagious child will be cleaned and sterilised thoroughly to reduce the spread of this infection. If there is a serious outbreak of a contagious disease, the nursery will close and undergo a deep clean. The duty room at the Health Protection Team will be contacted.

## **Illness & Exclusion Periods:**

**Chickenpox** 5 days **after\*** onset of rash and until all vesicles have crusted over (no open or weeping spots)

Pregnant staff contacts should consult with their GP or midwife

**Conjunctivitis** 24hrs **after\*** last symptom (no discharge) or 24 hrs into antibiotic drops

**Any Antibiotics** 24 hrs **after\*** first dose

**Hand foot and mouth** 5 days **after\*** onset of rash and until blister like rash has disappeared (no open or weeping spots)

**Diarrhoea &/or Vomiting** 48hrs **after** last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting

<b>Flu</b>	Absent until recovered
<b>Slap Cheek</b>	No longer infectious once rash appears. Please speak with nursery before returning as can affect pregnancies under 20 weeks
Pregnant staff contacts should consult with their GP or midwife	
<b>Open wounds</b>	Must be dressed before coming into nursery
<b>Impetigo</b>	Until all lesions are healed <b>or</b> 48hrs into antibiotic treatment
<b>Whooping Cough***</b> no antibiotics taken	5 days <b>after*</b> starting antibiotics <b>or</b> 21 days <b>after</b> first episode if
<b>Ringworm</b>	Return <b>after*</b> first treatment
<b>Measles***</b>	4 days <b>from**</b> onset of rash
<b>German Measles (Rubella)***</b>	5 days <b>from**</b> onset of rash
<b>Scabies</b>	Can return <b>after*</b> first treatment received
<b>Scarlet Fever</b>	24hrs <b>after*</b> starting antibiotics
<b>Shingles</b> 24 hrs into antibiotic treatment	Exclusion if rash is weeping then 24hrs after last symptom <b>or</b>
<b>Mumps***</b>	5 days <b>after*</b> onset of swelling

\*After excludes first day infection/symptoms become apparent

\*\*From includes first day symptoms

\*\*\*Denotes a notifiable disease. Registered medical practitioners in England and Wales have a statutory duty to notify their local authority or UKHSA health protection team of suspected cases of certain infectious diseases.

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
7/2/25	C.E.Carroll	January 2027
Updated 18/8/25	C.E.Carroll	