

Sheffield Hallam University Nursery

**Sickness and Illness Children Policy
including exclusions and time periods**

The Nursery does 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, and on these occasions, we will ask parents to collect the child. While waiting for parents to arrive, the staff will make sure the child is comforted and reassured

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

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. This will be recorded on the Health and Welfare form. If more than one case is recorded a log will be taken for reporting to UK Health Security Agency <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.

Reporting and Recording

Staff will report any worries 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.

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.

Falling ill whilst at nursery

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.

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
Flu	Absent until recovered
Slap Cheek	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	
Open wounds	Must be dressed before coming into nursery
Impetigo	Until all lesions are healed or 48hrs into antibiotic treatment
Whooping Cough***	5 days after* starting antibiotics or 21 days after first episode if no antibiotics taken
Ringworm	Return after* first treatment
Measles***	4 days from** onset of rash
German Measles (Rubella)***	5 days from** onset of rash
Scabies	Can return after* first treatment received
Scarlet Fever	24hrs after* starting antibiotics
Shingles	Exclusion if rash is weeping then 24hrs after last symptom or 24 hrs into antibiotic treatment
Mumps***	5 days after* 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 2026