



Cherubs Preschool

Pandemic Policy

Cherubs Preschool intends to use this policy to provide precautionary measures to minimise transmission risks of infection in the setting during an epidemic or pandemic.

Please note: This is a generic Covid-19 policy for the Cherubs Preschools due to the differences in the size and make up each individual setting has, further measures they implement can be found at individual settings.

Aim of Policy

This Policy defines and assists the operating arrangements in place within the preschools that assures compliance to the Government and leading bodies requirements in relation to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. This information builds upon our current procedures for areas such as Safeguarding, Child Protection and Equality and Diversity, however new practices may emerge as the situation continues.

Method

As early years providers we ensure to offer a continuation of our very high standards of practice of childcare and education. The fundamental principles to be outlined in this policy are set out to ensure reasonable social distancing are enabled and that good hygiene practices are implemented at all times and where possible avoiding contact with anyone that is showing symptoms of Covid-19. It states that the protective measures put in place for children, parents and staff reduce the risk of transmission. We will continue to follow all 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 symptomatic.
- Maintaining personal and respiratory hygiene (handwashing, catch it, kill it, bin it)
- Ensuring cleanliness of the environment (especially frequently touched surfaces)
- Minimising general contact.
- The use of Protective and Personal Equipment (PPE)
- Testing

Focus/ Areas of Consideration / Recommendations

Children

Attendance

- Only children who are symptom free or have completed the required isolation period should attend the setting.
- Providers will take the temperatures of children and staff on arrival and will risk assess any children /staff who are returning after a period of isolation
- Extremely vulnerable children should continue to follow the government advice and guidance regarding shielding.
- Parents and carers should be encouraged to limit the number of settings their child attends, where possible, ideally ensuring their child only attends the same setting consistently.

Social Distancing

- Parents/Carers will be required to implement the 2m social distancing rule at all times when waiting outside the setting, using the social distances markers.
- Parents to set an example to their child by following social distancing rules and wearing a face covering when dropping off and collecting their child/children at the preschool unless they have good reason not to do so.
- "This is due to the worrying news that cases of Covid-19 have been increasing locally. So it has never been more implicit that everyone does their bit in reducing the risk of transmitting the virus."

Wellbeing and education

- Children should be supported in age appropriate ways to understand the steps they can take to keep themselves safe including regular hand washing, coughing into the elbow, using a tissue and adopting the catch it, kill it, bin it approach.
- Children are supported to understand the changes and challenges they may be encountering as a result of Covid-19 and staff will ensure they are aware of the children's needs.
- EYFS framework will continue to be delivered through play and adult led activities.
- Parents will be asked to provide a healthy snack and or lunch in a clearly labelled named plastic container/bag. We will provide additional water and milk throughout the session.

Workforce

Attendance

- Staff will only attend preschool if they are symptom free, have completed the required isolation period or achieved a negative test result. All staff and their household are eligible for testing if they display symptoms.
- Providers will take the temperature of staff on arrival and a risk assessment with a health questionnaire will be completed for staff returning from isolation.

Social distancing & safety

- Staff will complete a risk assessment before opening to address any risks from the virus and ensure appropriate safe measures are in place to minimise risks.
- Staff are aware of measures in place and have read and understood the preschool policies and procedures.

- Staff have been advised by the government not to wear PPE such as facemasks during their day, but should continue to wear PPE at the usual times such as intimate care which includes wearing a visor, disposable gloves and an apron.
- If a member of staff is caring for a child who has developed symptoms of Covid-19 whilst at the preschool they will be required to wear a face mask whilst they look after the child who is isolated from the group waiting to be collected.
- The staff member who was caring for the unwell child should continue to wear PPE and clean the affected area with disinfectant.
- All PPE should be removed and disposed of following current government guidelines, the staff member should wash their hands for at least 20 seconds.
- The staff member who supported the unwell child does not need to go home unless they are developing symptoms themselves.
- Social distancing must be maintained during breaks.
- Staff members should avoid physical contact with each other including handshakes, hugs etc.
- Staff to wear clean uniform daily. Staff can arrive in uniform (unless using public transport) but when leaving the setting they will need to change their clothing and ensure uniform is laundered.

Training

- Where possible, meetings and training sessions should be conducted within the social distancing rules and or virtually.
- All staff members must receive appropriate instruction and training in infection control and the standard operating procedures and risk assessments within which they will be operating.
- Online training will be made available to allow their training levels to be maintained if appropriate.

Parents

Social distancing

- Only parents who are symptom free and or have completed the required isolation periods will be able to drop off or collect their child.
- We will aim to minimise the busy periods during the day and limit drop off and pick up to one parent per family where possible.
- We will advise and ensure that parents follow the social distancing guidelines when queuing.
- When parents are waiting to drop off or collect their child, social distancing should be maintained in a safe area following government social distancing guidance.

Communications

- Parents should receive clear communication regarding the role they play in the safe operating procedure and all measures being taken to ensure the safety of their children and themselves.
- Parents should inform preschool of their circumstances and if they plan to keep their child away, this helps preschool to conform to our safeguarding policy.

Visitors

- Attendance to the setting should be restricted to only children and staff. Visitors should not be permitted to the preschool unless essential (e.g. essential building

maintenance. Where essential visits are required these should be made outside of the usual preschool operational hours where possible.

- In instances where the preschool need to use other essential professionals such as, social workers, speech and language therapists or other professionals to support delivery of a child's EHC plan or essential to the child's health and wellbeing, settings should assess whether the professionals need to attend in person or can do so virtually.
- If they need to attend in person, they should:
 - follow guidance relevant to the preschool
 - keep the number of attendances to a minimum
 - wash hands frequently
 - where possible to do so, maintain social distancing
 - be informed about the system of controls in settings
- As far as possible parents and carers should not enter the premises unless there is an emergency.

Settings should consider how to manage other visitors to the site, such as contractors, and ensure site guidance on social distancing and hygiene is explained to visitors on or before arrival. Where visits can happen outside of setting hours, a record should be kept of all visitors where this is practical which follows the guidance on maintaining records of staff and visitors to support NHS Test and Trace.

Travel

- Wherever possible staff and parents should travel to preschool using their own transport or walk.
- If public transport is necessary, current guidance on the use of public transport must be followed.
- Parents are advised that they cannot leave any items including buggies, car seats, scooters in the setting premises or grounds.

Hygiene and Health & Safety

Hand Washing

- All children and staff must wash their hands upon arrival at the preschool for at least 20 seconds.
- Hand sanitiser will be available for all children and staff to use regularly.
- Children and staff members will wash their hands frequently, this includes before and after eating food, upon changing rooms/garden, after visiting the toilet and going home etc.
- Bodily fluid spills should follow the correct procedures as normal.

Cleaning

- An enhanced cleaning schedule must be implemented that includes furniture, surfaces and children's toys and equipment and all staff are responsible in their area of work.
- Communal areas, touch points and hand washing facilities must be cleaned and sanitised regularly and cleaned thoroughly at the end of every session.
- A deep clean will be implemented when/after a child has become ill in the area they were waiting.

Waste disposal

- All waste must be disposed of in a hygienic and safe manner following government guidelines.
- Tissues etc that have been used by a child or staff member with suspected Covid-19 must be disposed of following the government guidelines.
- Tissues must be immediately disposed of and placed in a bin with a bag, lid and foot pedal.
- Bodily fluids must be double bagged and disposed of in a bin with a bag, lid and foot pedal.
- Tissue bins will be emptied regularly throughout the day

Risk assessment

- The setting will be risk assessed before opening or going ahead to address the risks from the virus and due consideration given to any adaptations to usual practice. Sensible measures should be put in place and policies and procedures followed.
- It is expected that this would include, but not be limited to, the suspension of learning experiences involving materials which are not easily washable such as malleable materials (playdough).
- Limit the resources that we have out available for the children including any toys which have intricate pieces that would be hard to clean.
- Remove anything which cannot be easily wiped down or cleaned at the end of the day.

PPE

- Government guidance is that PPE is not required for general use in early years settings to protect against Covid-19 transmission.
- PPE should continue to be worn and disposed of as normal for nappy changing, one to one care and the administration of first aid.
- If a child shows symptoms, staff should wear a face mask, visor, disposable gloves and apron if a 2 meter distance cannot be maintained at all times. PPE should be disposed of following government guidelines.

Premises Building

- Where premises have been temporarily closed during the lockdown period or where they may need to temporarily close during future lockdowns appropriate Health & Safety checks should be conducted prior to reopening including legionnaires checks.
- Keep windows open where possible to ensure good levels of ventilation. If doors are opened ensure the children safety is maintained with locked gates.
- Provision will take place outdoors as much as possible.

Resources

- Children should not be permitted to bring items from home into the setting unless absolutely essential for their wellbeing. Any comforters that are brought in from home should be clean and hygienic. Any belongings that are brought in from home should remain in the child's book bag unless needed for the child's well-being.
- All resources required for play and learning experiences of children should be regularly washed and sterilised. Any resources which are difficult to clean should be removed.
- Equipment used by staff such as stationary, tablets/ipads/cameras etc. should be allocated to individual staff members where possible and cleaned regularly in between use.

Supplies Procurement & Monitoring

- The preschool should ensure an adequate supply of essential products and have a contingency plan, such as additional suppliers are in place to minimise the impact of any shortages.
- The preschool will not be able to operate without essential supplies required for ensuring infection control.
- A monitoring system for the usage of PPE is essential to ensure that a supply of stock is available to all who require it as and when required to meet the operational needs of the setting.

Responding to a suspected case

- In the event of a child developing suspected coronavirus symptoms whilst attending the setting, they should be collected as soon as possible and isolate at home in line with the current NHS guidance.
- Whilst waiting for the child to be collected they should be isolated from others in a previously identified room or area. If possible, a window should be opened for ventilation.
- The provider will provide suitable PPE for the staff member caring for the child such as a face mask, visor disposable gloves and apron.
- The area should be thoroughly cleaned immediately.
- The person responsible for cleaning ideally should be the person dealing with the unwell child and should continue to wear their PPE. This should then be disposed of according to current government guidelines.
- In the event of a staff member developing suspected coronavirus symptoms whilst working at the preschool, they should return home immediately and isolate at home in line with the NHS guidance. They should also follow current testing advice for themselves and their household.
- According to government guidance all children who are attending a childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus. The aim is to enable children to get back to childcare, and their parents or carers not to need to self-isolate any longer than necessary, if the test proves to be negative.
- A positive test will ensure rapid action can be taken to protect other children and staff at Cherubs Preschool. DfE helpline/Public Health England will be contacted immediately to report the positive test result/confirmed case of COVID-19 and a risk assessment will be carried out and guidance followed.
- We ask all parents and carers to ensure they organise a test for their child, in the event that they develop coronavirus symptoms, and notify us immediately of a positive test. Parents can access a test for under 5" by contacting 111.

Monitoring of this policy

This policy will be reviewed annually by the preschool managers. New government legislation and policies will be incorporated appropriately as and when required or informed.

Legislation and leading authorities which have guided and influenced this policy are: Coronavirus Act 2020, Health and Safety at Work Act (1974), Health and Safety Executive (HSE), Government Briefings, Public Health England (PHE) and World Health Organisation (WHO). Advice from but not limited to, The Secretary of State, The Chief Medical Officer,

Local Authority (LA) and Department for Education (DfE). The policy also has regard to Ofsted and Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) guidance where appropriate.

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