



Illness and Exclusion Policy (Sickness and Infection Control)

Last Review: 21/08/2025

Next Review: 21/08/2026

1.0 Policy Statement

Our priority is the health, safety and wellbeing of every child and member of staff. Children should only attend when they are well enough to participate in normal nursery activities and do not pose an avoidable risk of infection to others. We work in partnership with families, using proportionate exclusion periods to limit spread while avoiding unnecessary absence. Where a child becomes unwell during the day, we will care for them calmly in a quiet area and arrange prompt collection. Records and parent communications are managed on Famly.

2.0 Our Legal Obligation

EYFS Statutory Framework (2025): keep written records of accidents/injuries and inform parents the same day or as soon as reasonably practicable; maintain daily attendance records; ensure suitable first aid; and notify Ofsted within 14 days of any serious accident, illness or injury, any death of a child, and food poisoning affecting two or more children.

UKHSA – Health protection in children and young people settings (2025): follow national exclusion periods and contact the Health Protection Team (HPT) for outbreaks/notifiable diseases as advised.

NHS/UKHSA clinical guidance: condition-specific advice for return to nursery (e.g., diarrhoea/vomiting, chickenpox, impetigo, conjunctivitis, hand-foot-mouth, head lice).

Health & Safety at Work etc. Act 1974: safe systems of work, infection prevention and control.

Equality Act 2010: reasonable adjustments for long-term conditions; non-discriminatory practice.

UK GDPR & Data Protection Act 2018: secure, proportionate handling of health information on Famly.

3.0 Procedures

When a child is too unwell to attend:

Children should stay at home if they have a high temperature/fever, are vomiting, have diarrhoea, or are otherwise not well enough to take part in normal activities. Parents/carers should tell us via Famly (or phone/email) before the session starts; we record the reason the same day on Famly and follow our Attendance Policy for any unexplained or prolonged absence.

If a child becomes ill at nursery:

We move the child to a quiet, comfortable space with an adult, follow first-aid and infection-control procedures, and contact parents/carers for prompt collection. We record the event on Famly and inform parents the same day. Environmental cleaning is completed before areas are reused.

Return to nursery – typical exclusion periods:

We follow UKHSA/NHS guidance. The times below are a quick reference; if advice changes, UKHSA/NHS take precedence.

- Diarrhoea and/or vomiting: return 48 hours after the last episode and when well.
- Chickenpox: stay off until all spots have crusted (usually about 5 days from rash onset). nhs.uk
- Impetigo: return 48 hours after starting antibiotics or when sores are crusted/healed. GOV.UK NHS inform
- Conjunctivitis: no routine exclusion; attend if comfortable; reinforce hand/towel hygiene.
- Hand, foot & mouth: no routine exclusion; stay off only if too unwell.
- Head lice: no exclusion; begin treatment; tie long hair back.
- Measles: exclude at least 4 days from rash onset and until well; seek medical advice.

(For any illness not listed, we follow current UKHSA/NHS advice and, where appropriate, the child's clinician's guidance.)

Notifiable diseases and outbreaks:

We follow UKHSA advice for suspected outbreaks (e.g., two or more linked cases) and cooperate with the Health Protection Team on additional measures or communications. The child's GP is responsible for statutory notifiable disease reporting; we keep our own records and follow HPT advice. For serious childcare incidents (including serious illness or food poisoning affecting two or more children), we notify Ofsted within 14 days and act on any instructions from authorities.

Medication and care while unwell:

Where a child requires medication to manage symptoms or a diagnosed condition

during attendance, we follow our Administration of Medication Policy. We cannot provide continuous one-to-one care for an unwell child; if a child need sustained individual attention due to illness, we will request collection for their comfort and everyone's safety.

Communication and records:

All illness reports, exclusion decisions, and return-to-nursery confirmations are recorded on Famly. We keep parents informed, maintain confidentiality, and store records in line with our Data Protection Policy.