**Whitchurch Under Fives**

**Covid 19 Sick Child Policy & Procedure**

Children can be under the weather for all sorts of reasons and the cautionary and right type of care is especially important in these times of the Covid 19 outbreak. If a child is feeling unwell, we ask you not bring them to the setting while we have heightened Covid 19 measures in place to safeguard all children, their families, and our staff. It is important that parents or carers share all information with Pre-school when children require special attention.

Under certain circumstances it will not be possible to care for a child to prevent spread of infection or when acting in the best interests of that child and the others in our care. If a child is showing any of the three main symptoms of Covid 19, high temperature, new cough or loss of taste or smell, they must stay away from Pre-school environment until they have been tested through the ‘Track & Trace’ system. If a child has an infectious illness, they must follow the Government ‘Track & Trace’ Instructions and inform/update pre-school at the earliest time. If a medical person or advice taken from the Health Protection Agency considers the disease to be notifiable Ofsted will be informed.

If a child becomes ill whilst in our care the parents, carer or emergency contact will be telephoned, and arrangement made to collect the child immediately. To minimise the risk of spreading the virus, a staff member will isolate with the child in a designated area wearing full PPE.

**On the issue of children attending more than one setting**, the guidance states that: "To minimise contact between groups of children and staff, children should attend just one setting wherever possible and parents and carers should be encouraged to minimise as far as possible the number of education and childcare settings their child attends. As a setting we have decided, that to reduce the risk of contact with other settings, we cannot accept children who attend other settings. This will be reviewed when restrictions are lifted further.

**Effective infection protection and control**

There are important actions that children and young people, their parents and those who work with them can take during the coronavirus outbreak, to help prevent the spread of the virus.

In all education, childcare and social care settings, preventing the spread of coronavirus involves dealing with direct transmission (for instance, when in close contact with those sneezing and coughing) and indirect transmission (via touching contaminated surfaces). A range of approaches and actions should be employed to do this. These can be seen as a hierarchy of controls that, when implemented, creates an inherently safer system, where the risk of transmission of infection is substantially reduced. These include:

* minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend childcare settings, schools or colleges
* cleaning hands more often than usual - wash hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered
* ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach
* cleaning frequently touched surfaces often using standard products, such as detergents and bleach
* minimising contact and mixing by altering, as much as possible, the environment (such as classroom layout) and timetables (such as staggered break times)

**Personal protective equipment (PPE) including face coverings and face masks**

Wearing a face covering or face mask in schools or other education settings is not recommended. Face coverings may be beneficial for short periods indoors where there is a risk of close social contact with people you do not usually meet and where social distancing and other measures cannot be maintained, for example on public transport or in some shops. This does not apply to schools or other education settings. Schools and other education or childcare settings should therefore not require staff, children and learners to wear face coverings. Changing habits, cleaning and hygiene are effective measures in controlling the spread of the virus. Face coverings (or any form of medical mask where instructed to be used for specific clinical reasons) should not be worn in any circumstance by those who may not be able to handle them as directed (for example, young children, or those with special educational needs or disabilities) as it may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission.

The majority of staff in education settings will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work, even if they are not always able to maintain a distance of 2 metres from others. PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases including:

* children, young people, and students whose care routinely already involves the use of PPE due to their intimate care needs should continue to receive their care in the same way
* if a child, young person or other learner becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in their setting and needs direct personal care until they can return home. A fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. If contact with the child or young person is necessary, then disposable gloves, a disposable apron and a fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult. If a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, for example from coughing, spitting, or vomiting, then eye protection should also be worn

This policy has been adapted from our ‘Sick Child Policy’.

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| Date Agreed:  Signed by:  Signature: | Review Date:  Signature:  Review Date:  Signature: |
| **Committee Member**  **Role of Signatory =** | |