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**Guildhall Feoffment Preschool & Nursery**

**Infection Control Policy**

**Purpose of Policy:**

This policy is designed to ensure that a safe, healthy environment is maintained at Guildhall Feoffment Preschool & Nursery. The nursery recognises that infections and illnesses can spread quickly amongst children in a childcare environment therefore we will endeavour to ensure that infections are controlled to ensure good health and hygiene practices are maintained including giving medications when children are unwell.

**Who is responsible:**

It is the responsibility of the manager to ensure that any children, parents, visitors and members of staff who have a contagious illness are excluded from the nursery for the recommended period.

The manager has a responsibility to inform parents and carers if a child enters the setting with a contagious illness.

All members of staff have a responsibility to ensure that any children who arrive at the setting unwell that the child’s parent/carer speaks to management or a senior staff member before a decision is made on whether the child remains at nursery or go home.

All members of staff have a responsibility to ensure that they do not attend the session if they have an infectious illness, this will assist Guildhall Feoffment Preschool & Nursery to prevent the spread of any infectious illness.

**How the policy will be implemented:**

Guildhall Feoffment Preschool & Nursery aims to prevent the spread of infectious illnesses and infections by the following:

* Excluding children with infectious illnesses and infections for the recommended period (please see NHS Exclusion Guidelines for further information).
* Excluding all members of staff with infectious illnesses and infections for the recommend period.
* Identifying signs of illness in children and staff whilst they are in setting.
* Informing parents and carers of sick children until they can be collected from the setting, considering the sensitivity of the situation and that the child does not feel excluded as a result of any action.
* Preventing the spread of infection by adhering to the setting’s health and safety policy
* Reporting incidences of certain infections to other parents and members of staff whilst maintaining the anonymity of all children and staff involved.

The following are the types of infections that would be reported to parents and members of staff;

* Headlice
* Measles
* Chicken pox
* Mumps
* Meningitis
* Whooping cough
* Hand, Foot and Mouth
* Slap cheek
* Coronavirus

Highlight the importance to parents that if their children have not been immunised then they be in a high-risk category in an infectious illness presents itself in the setting, by putting this policy in the initial information packs and on our website. Parents and carers have the right to choose whether they will send their child to the setting if one or more of these infections are present.

Monitoring of children and members of staff where there has been exclusion for signs of the same illness.

Members of staff who become unwell during working hours will immediately be sent home.

**Dealing with a child who becomes unwell:**

In accordance with setting registration guidelines children will not be admitted into the setting if they are showing signs of any ailment that could be contagious or could affect the settings ability to care for the children and other children in attendance. Similarly, any member of staff who attends work showing signs of any ailment that could affect their ability to carry out their duties will be sent home and a replacement member of staff called in to cover the minimum child to adult ratios.

Children who become unwell during the session will be made comfortable and will be cared for by a member of staff until their parent or carer can collect them in a separate area away from other children wherever possible. The dignity of the child will remain paramount and the child will not be made to feel bade as a result of their illness, but the setting will put measures in place t ensure that the risk of the illness spreading is minimised.

In instances where any medication is administered as a form of treatment, such medication will be administered in accordance with the Sickness and Medication policy and will only be administered with the express permission of the child’s parent or carer. Any and all administration of medications will be recorded on our administrating medicine form.

A child’s parent or carer will be contacted upon a child becoming unwell and will be asked to come and collect the child or decide for the child to be collected as soon as possible. Where the parent or carer cannot be contacted the setting will contact the emergency contact provided on the registration form. The person collecting the child will be asked to sign any records, for example, the administering medicine form.

**Dealing with a child/staff member who becomes unwell whilst in setting with symptoms of the Coronavirus:**

Whilst waiting for collection if possible, they should be put somewhere safe to sit which is away from other people and if a child then a staff member sits with them wearing the full PPE.

Ideally, a window should be opened for ventilation.

If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they should use a separate bathroom if possible. The bathroom should be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else.

In an event of an emergency, call 999 if they are seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk. Do not visit the GP, pharmacy, urgent care centre or a hospital.

If a member of staff has helped someone who was taken unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves.

They should wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell.

Cleaning with normal household disinfectant after someone with symptoms has left will reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people.

\*Follow Track and Trace guidance (see coronavirus policy)

**Exclusion Guidelines**:In cases where a child, parent or member of staff is known to have contracted a contagious illness or infection that could affect other children or staff, the nursery will implement the following exclusion guidelines;

* Any child who has an illness that results in a greater need of care than members of staff can provide and who may be placing other children at risk will be excluded until such a time as treatment has been received and the child is feeling better.
* Any member of staff who has an illness that affects their ability to carry out their duties and who be placing children or other staff members at risk will be excluded until such a time as treatment has been received and they are feeling better.
* Any child or staff member showing signs of fever, lethargy, or difficulty breathing or any other manifestation of severe illness will be excluded until such a time as a diagnosis has been made and treatment received, and they are feeling better.
* Gastric upset: exclusion for 48 hours after last attack of vomiting or diarrhoea.
* Rash with fever or behavioural change; exclusion until medical advice has been sought and a determination of further infection is made.
* Fever/throat infections; exclusion until 24 hours after fever has gone down.
* Shingles; exclusion until lesions are crusted.
* Impetigo; exclusion for at least 48 hours after treatment has been received and spots are no longer weeping fluid.
* Conjunctivitis; exclusion for 48 hours after treatment has been received.
* Headlice; No exclusion needed
* Ring worm; those who have the infection in an exposed area such as the scalp or hands will be excluded for 1 week and permitted to return only after treatment has commenced. Those who have the infection on area of the body that can be covered with clothing can return within 24 hours of starting treatment. They should not share clothing or towels and wash hands thoroughly after using the toilet and before eating.
* Theadworm; can return once treatment has been received.
* Hand, Foot and Mouth; No exclusion .
* Influenza; exclusion until clinically well
* Chicken Pox; exclusion until ast crop of spots has crusted over, usually 7 days.
* Rubella; exclusion for 7 days after onset of rash
* Mumps; exclusion until 9 days after the first appearance of symptoms.
* Whooping cough; exclusion for 5 days as long as antibiotic course has been completed, if antibiotics have not been given exclusion will be 14 days.
* Meningitis; exclusion until clinically well.
* Coronavirus; exclude for 5 days if over 18 and 3 days for under 18’s if have a positive test result.

All infectious illnesses must be reported to the manager who will advise of any exclusion period and make the decision to inform other parents, carers and other staff members. In certain circumstances the Committee will be informed.

Signed: T Bucher Date: February 2023 Review date: February 2024