

Control of Infection Policy March 2023



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The Early Years Foundation Stage says that providers must have a procedure for **“responding to children who are ill or infectious, take necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection and take appropriate action if children are ill”**

What is infection control?

Infection control is concerned with the hygiene practices and the precautions that all practitioners take to prevent the spread of germs and the actions taken to control the spread of infection.

Here are five steps we take to help prevent the spread of infection in our Nursery:

1. Good basic personal hygiene – in particular staff and children wash their hands whenever they are obviously dirty and in the following circumstances:

Before:

- starting/finishing work
- handling, preparing, serving or eating food, including preparing babies bottles
- giving medication to a child or taking it yourself
- using a computer keyboard
- messy play activities such as dough, sand or water

After:

- touching anything that may be contaminated – including soiled clothing
- contact with blood or bodily fluids
- using the toilet or helping a child use the toilet
- changing nappies – even if gloves are worn
- during an outbreak of diarrhoea and/or vomiting in Nursery
- blowing/wiping runny noses
- any cleaning procedure
- outdoor play activities
- after removing single-use or other protective gloves

2. Cover existing wounds or skin lesions - activities such as preparing and serving food, play dough, clay, gloop, sand or water play should be avoided by staff and children if they have open wounds on their hands. Lesions caused by skin conditions such as eczema may be particularly aggravated by such activities.

3. Use appropriate single-use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – this includes aprons and gloves for nappy changing, cleaning up vomit or blood or any activity that involves the risk of contamination. PPE, when used appropriately, protects staff from germs and splashing, but also protects children from contamination from staff clothing. PPE is often single-use and boxes of single-use gloves or aprons are available.

4. Have a clear procedure for cleaning toys, equipment and the environment - A regular cleaning schedule is essential in any early years environment to prevent the spread of infection. Germs cannot thrive on clean, dry surfaces. The cleaning schedule should cover the equipment and resources in each area, how often it is cleaned and by which method. Staff must always be prepared to clean up as they go along, using disposable paper towels for spillages of blood and/or bodily fluids, wearing gloves and plastic aprons.

The frequency of these cleans should be increased during infection outbreaks. In some cases it may be necessary to close Nursery while a deep clean takes place which involves cleaning carpets, curtains and all surfaces including walls.

5. Understand and follow guidance for managing illness and infections – despite the best efforts of staff to prevent the spread of infection, it is

inevitable that some children and staff will become poorly because many infections are contagious before any obvious symptoms appear. Early years settings are not equipped to manage 'sick' children. As a general principle, children with an infection should be kept at home while they have symptoms or are feeling unwell. The same rules apply to staff too.

At **Lark Hill Nursery School** we promote the good health of all children attending through maintaining high hygiene standards and reducing the chances of infection being spread. We follow the health protection in schools and other childcare facilities guidance¹ which sets out when and how long children need to be excluded from settings, when treatment/medication is required and where to get further advice from.

Viruses and infections can be easily passed from person to person by breathing in air containing the virus which is produced when an infected person talks, coughs or sneezes. It can also spread through hand/face contact after touching a person or surface contaminated with viruses.

We follow the guidance below to prevent a virus or infection from spreading around the nursery. Our staff:

- Encourage all children to use tissues when coughing and sneezing to catch germs
- Ensure all tissues are disposed of in a hygienic way and all children and staff wash their hands once the tissue is disposed of
- Develop children's understanding of the above and the need for good hygiene procedures in helping them to stay healthy
- Wear the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when changing nappies, toileting children and dealing with any other bodily fluids. Staff are requested to dispose of these in the appropriate manner and wash hands immediately
- Clean changing mats before and after each use
- Clean toilets at least daily and check them throughout the day
- Remind children to wash their hands before eating, after visiting the toilet, playing outside or being in contact with any animal and explain the reasons for this

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities>

- Clean all toys, equipment and resources on a regular basis by following a comprehensive cleaning rota and using antibacterial cleanser, or through washing in the washing machine
- Wash or clean all equipment used by babies and toddlers as and when needed, including when the children have placed it in their mouth
- Immediately clean any dummy or bottle that falls on the floor or is picked up by another child
- Provide labelled individual bedding for children that is not used by any other child and wash this at least once a week

In addition:

- The Headteacher / Nursery Teacher retains the right of refusal of all children, parents, staff and visitors who are deemed contagious and may impact on the welfare of the rest of the nursery
- Parents will be made aware of the need for these procedures in order for them to follow these guidelines whilst in the nursery
- Each half term each room in the nursery will be deep cleaned including to ensure the spread of infection is limited. This will be implemented earlier if the need arises
- In the event of an infection outbreak the nursery will, where appropriate, undertake a deep clean to ensure the spread of infection is contained
- We will follow the Government health guidance, as well as legal advice and our information from our insurers on any national outbreak of a virus/pandemic and keep parents informed of any course of action. Each specific circumstances will differ and to ensure we take the most appropriate action we will treat each case on an individual basis.
- In addition, where contagious outbreaks occur, will adopt government guidance for all visitors to minimise risk of further spreading the risk of infection
- The nursery will ensure stocks of tissues, hand washing equipment and cleaning materials are maintained at all times and increased during the winter months or when flu and cold germs are circulating.