



## Infection Control Policy

### Introduction

At ACE Nursery school we undertake precautions and procedures to minimise any cross infection that may occur between the children and staff. But at some time during the year your child more than likely become ill, as this happens to all children. Our aim at ACE is to prevent the spread of illness to children and staff. This policy will help you understand how to deal with illness when your child is with us. We strongly suggest that you consider plans for the care of your child ahead of time, before it is needed, as the school is not equipped to care for sick children.

### **You are asked not to bring your child into Nursery in the following circumstances:-**

- Any signs of being poorly (when your child needs one to one attention)
- If they need or have taken Infant Paracetamol, Ibuprofen or Calpol
- Conjunctivitis (if it has not been treated)
- A high temperature or fever
- Head Lice (if it has not been treated)
- Any childhood infectious disease (Check with the Nursery as incubation times and symptoms vary with each case, see poster displayed in the Parents' Room)

### **Diarrhoea and vomiting**

**Children must be kept away from nursery until they have had 48 hours without any symptoms. This will always mean a minimum of two days away from nursery.**

### Medication

Medicines are administered if they have been prescribed by a doctor, dentist, nurse or pharmacist and carry the POM (Prescription Only Medicine) or P (Pharmacy) symbol on the packaging. And, if they have been purchased over the counter there is an acceptable health reason to give the medication.

The first dose of medication **must** be given at home in case the child has any reactions. The child must have **24 hours** away from nursery to allow the medication to take effect.

If the child has visited the doctors before their session starts and has been prescribed medication then the child will not be allowed to attend Nursery, as we encourage parents/carers to start the course of medication straight away. Therefore they will need 24 hours away from Nursery.

### Head Lice

Staff are not permitted to look through any child's hair for head lice but with most cases, head lice can be seen in the child's hair as staff have very close contact with the children. Upon noticing head lice staff will inform the parent/carer and ask them to treat their child/ren's hair once they have been collected from their session.

Children can return to nursery as long as they have been treated. A notice will be placed for all parents' to see notifying them a case of headlice has been reported and asking everyone to check their own children's hair.

## Conjunctivitis

If staff suspects a child may have conjunctivitis they will inform parents/carers and ask that the child is treated before returning to school.

## Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease

This is an infection that is usually caused by a virus which affects children under 10 years of age, but older children and adults can be affected. Like many virus infections, the illness often starts with a feeling of being unwell for a day or so. This might include a high temperature and then a sore throat will commonly occur, quickly followed by small spots that develop inside the mouth. Spots can then develop on the skin; these spots are small lumps a few millimetres in diameter and usually appear on the hands and feet. Outbreaks will often occur in nurseries and we ask for children to be kept away whilst they are feeling unwell but there is no need to keep the child away until every spot has disappeared.

## If a child becomes unwell at Nursery

Staff build up a close relationship with the children and become very familiar with each individual child's personality and behaviour. Staff can quickly pick up on signs of a child not being themselves i.e. not having snack, wanting lots of cuddles or wanting to sleep more than usual. Physical signs of not being well might include being flushed in the face, watery eyes, and clammy skin. In this case a member of staff will phone the parent/carer and inform them of the situation and ask that the child is collected as soon as possible.

On discovering a child who is unwell staff will:

- Remove layers of clothing.
- Provide the child with a drink of water.
- Move the child to a quieter area of the nursery.
- Open a window and allow the child to cool slowly.
- A staff member will comfort the child.

If a child is being sick or has diarrhoea then the parent/carer will be contacted straight away and the child **must** be taken home and have **48 hours** away from nursery without any symptoms.

At all times staff will:

- Maintain high standards of personal hygiene.
- Summon emergency medical help if required.
- Contact parent/carer if the child is particularly distressed and upset and not their normal self.

If we have a reason to believe that any child is suffering from a notifiable disease identified as such in the Public Health (Infection Diseases) Regulations 1988, we will inform the parent/carer and Ofsted. ACE will act on any advice given by the Health Protection Agency and inform Ofsted of any action taken. (See appendix one)

**If your child is not well enough to go outdoors, then your child should be kept at home and must not attend nursery until recovered. If we are unable to contact the child's parent/legal guardian when a child is unwell, then the first emergency contact on the child's file will be contacted.**

**Policy Adopted: Autumn term 2017**

**Review Date: Autumn term 2018**

**Signed : Lisa Tuohy**

**Position: Headteacher**