



Sickness and Illness policy

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1. Introduction to Brookside Pre-school's policy on sickness and illness

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that a safe, healthy environment is maintained at Brookside Preschool. We recognise that infections/illnesses can spread quickly amongst children, and in some cases amongst adults, in a childcare environment and therefore we will endeavour to ensure that infections/illnesses are controlled, and good health and hygiene practices are maintained.

2. Sickness and Illness Policy and Procedure

Children and staff should not attend Brookside Pre-school if they are unwell.

We will follow these procedures to ensure the welfare of all children who attend the pre-school:

- If a child becomes ill during the session, their parents/carers will be contacted and asked to pick the child up as soon as possible. Where the parent or carer cannot be contacted, the setting will contact the child's emergency contact provided on the registration form. During this time the child will be cared for in a quiet, calm area with their key person or staff member they feel comfortable with. The dignity of the child will remain paramount.
- If a member of staff or pre-school volunteer becomes ill during the session, they will be sent home if they are capable. If they are not capable, a member of their family will be contacted to provide them with transportation.
- Should a child, member of staff or pre-school volunteer have an infectious illness, such as sickness and diarrhoea, they should not return to the pre-school, until at least 48 hours after the last bout. There may be occasions when there is a medical issue causing ongoing sickness and diarrhoea, in this instance we may ask for GP confirmation and a care plan might need to be put in place.
- It is vital that we follow the advice given by the Public Health England and exclude specific contagious conditions, e.g. sickness and diarrhoea and chicken pox, to protect other children and members of staff at the pre-school. Illnesses of this nature are very contagious, and we would not want to expose other children/staff to the risk of an infection.
- Public health England published guidance on infection control (2023) [Health protection in children and young people settings, including education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-children-and-young-people-settings-including-education) Brookside use this to inform decisions regarding exclusion periods and infection control.

- The following are types of infections that we would confidentially report to other parents and members of staff: Measles, Chicken Pox, Mumps, Impetigo, Meningitis, Whooping Cough.
- If a contagious infection is identified at the pre-school, parents will be informed to enable them to spot the early signs of this illness.
- If a child is ill and requiring a course of antibiotics, we ask that the child is kept at home for the first 24 hours of the course.
- If a child arrives at the setting unwell the child's parent/carer must speak to the Manager and a decision will be made whether the child should remain at pre-school or go home.
- Brookside Pre-school requires written, parental permission for any medicines to be administered to a child during a session. A medicine record is in place and will be signed by the member of staff and parent/carer at the end of a session to confirm the dose and time (see Administering Medication policy).
- If a child has had paracetamol/ibuprofen administered prior to attending Brookside Pre-school, staff should be notified and in the best interests of the other children and staff the child may be asked to be taken home (see Administration of Medicines policy).
- We reserve the right to refuse admission to the preschool if we feel a child is not well enough to attend or has a contagious infection or disease.
- If a case of head lice is identified, the parent will be informed and asked to treat the child and the rest of the family if they are also found to have head lice.
- Nits and head lice are not an excludable condition although in exceptional cases a parent may be asked to keep a child away until the infestation has been cleared.

3. Covid 19

In the event where a person tests positive for Covid 19 we ask that they remain at home until they have fully recovered. This will help us to reduce the risk of the infection spreading throughout the setting.

For up-to-date Government guidance regarding managing Covid 19 please follow this link <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Please be assured that we maintain robust cleaning and hygiene measures to reduce the risk of spreading all illnesses.

4. Reporting of notifiable diseases

Notification of infectious diseases' is the term used to refer to the statutory duties for reporting notifiable diseases in the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984 and the Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010.

Registered medical practitioners have a statutory duty to notify the 'proper officer' at their local council or local health protection team of suspected cases of certain infectious diseases.

- When pre-school staff are made aware or are formally notified, the pre-school manager will inform Ofsted and act on any advice given by Public Health England.