

Mrs Bonds Village Nursery

Infection Control Policy and Procedures

Policy Aim

Mrs Bonds Village Nursery strives to minimise the risk of infection within the nursery by ensuring that the highest hygiene standards are maintained. We are aware that we have a responsibility to ensure that these procedures are put into practice.

Staff encourage the children to learn about good personal hygiene through their daily routine and through play activities relating to healthy living. We ensure that supplies of soap, anti-bacterial hand gel, paper towels, tissues, disposable gloves, aprons and anti-bacterial cleaning agents are readily available.

Hand washing:

- We particularly encourage good hand hygiene throughout the nursery as we acknowledge that it is the single most important practice in reducing the spread of infection. Hand hygiene posters are displayed throughout the nursery. The children are actively encouraged to wash their hands properly by staff setting a good example and also showing the children what to do. This helps to ensure that proper hand washing becomes a lifelong habit.
- It is essential that staff and children wash and dry their hands frequently and thoroughly. Hand washing routine posters are displayed in all toilets (staff and children) and everyone is encouraged to follow them
- Hands must always be washed and dried after:
 - using the toilet
 - coughing
 - wiping runny noses
 - sneezing
 - blowing your own nose
 - coming in from outdoors
 - being in contact with an animal
 - handling rubbish, and
 - Before eating or handling food.
 - after eating food
- If staff are unable to leave the playroom to wash their hands, anti-bacterial gel may be used as a temporary measure only. Hands must be washed as soon as possible thereafter.

Personal hygiene:

All staff should be neat and tidy with high standards of personal hygiene. When working with children, health and safety is paramount, so:

- long hair should be tied back;
- nails kept clean, short
- no excessive jewellery
- facial piercings should be removed
- if ears are pierced, studs should be worn
- clothing should be clean and ironed as appropriate

Toilets

Staff must:

- explain to children in a manner appropriate to their age and stage that it is important to keep the toilet area clean
- ensure that children flush the toilets and wash their hands
- keep the toilet area clean and tidy throughout the day, check toilet pans regularly and if necessary clean using spray bottles filled with diluted disinfectant (disinfectant spray) and blue/white roll wearing gloves and apron, also clean flush handles, taps, door handles and any other hand contact sites regularly.
- disposable aprons and gloves to be worn when assisting a child at the toilet.

- bins emptied, lids cleaned* and new bin liners inserted
- Paper towel dispenser refilled
- supplies of toilet rolls and soap checked and topped up if necessary
- sinks cleaned by disinfectant spray
- changing mat cleaned by disinfectant spray between every nappy change (any tears or damage to changing mat must be reported immediately)
- worktop under changing mat cleaned by disinfectant spray
- toilets cleaned by disinfectant spray
- in evening bleach poured into pan– flush first thing in morning
- floor mopped twice a day

Mealtimes:

- as food invariably ends up on the table, these surfaces should be cleaned properly by spraying soapy water before the children sit down
- children should not share food or utensils at mealtimes
- if a child drops their utensils on the floor then clean ones should be given
- after meals/snacks children's hands and faces should be wiped with an individual face cloth rinsed in warm water
- face cloths are for single use only and must be washed before re-use
- after meals/snacks tables and chairs should be cleaned by spraying soapy water.

Nappies:

- Nappy changing requires good hygiene procedures – it provides an ideal opportunity for germs to be transmitted to the child, to staff and to the surrounding area •
- ensure that you have all the equipment you need before you begin
- disposable gloves and aprons must be worn at all times when changing nappies and discarded after each use in the bins
- A clean apron and gloves must be used for each change
- mats with torn waterproof coverings must not be used – notify the Nursery Manager who will provide a new mat and discard the old one
- never leave a child alone on the changing worktop
- never share nappy cream
- don't use fingers to remove cream from containers – use the disposable gloves provided which must be discarded in the bin after one use
- do not come out of the toilet area wearing apron/gloves
- dirty nappies must be bagged and put into the bin
- dispose of your gloves and apron in the bin once a clean nappy is on
- all children must wash their hands after nappy changing
- All changing surfaces that is soiled must be cleaned with anti-bac spray bottles
- staff must wash their hands thoroughly after changing each nappy
- Even if there is no apparent need arising from soiling, all babies, mobile and non-mobile, must wash their hands/have their hands washed after nappy changing to promote the hand-washing routine.

Changing sick/soiled children:

If a child has been very sick or soiled and needs to be changed:

- put on disposable gloves and apron
- take the child to the nearest toilet area
- remove soiled clothing
- wash child as appropriate with warm water using a disposable cloth and dress in clean clothes

- all soiled clothing must be immediately double-bagged using nappy sacks/carrier bags and tied tightly at the top to seal (child's name on the outside and given home to the parents)
- discard all disposables in the bin
- wash and dry your hands

Floors:

- Spills should be cleaned up immediately and contaminated hard surfaces cleaned with disinfectant spray
- Hard floors should be mopped at least weekly using disinfectant solution
- Playroom rugs/carpets should be vacuumed daily and shampooed regularly as appropriate.

Eating Areas:

- Table tops and trays to be washed with hot, soapy water and wiped dry after each use.
- Food spills on chairs to be cleaned after each meal/snack using soapy water spray
- Chairs to be thoroughly cleaned, i.e. scrubbed with hot soapy water weekly

Toy/equipment cleaning

- soft toys, bouncy chair top covers to be machine washed as required and at least weekly
- rugs and cushions to be machine washed as required and at least weekly

Hard/plastic toys

- wash in hot, soapy water using a designated brush as frequently as practical and when visibly soiled
- rinse and thoroughly dry
- please ensure that toys containing small holes are dry before the children play with them
- toys that cannot be washed, rinsed and dried must be cleaned with soapy water using blue roll, it is vitally important that each toy is dried thoroughly as wet, moist areas are breeding grounds for germs
- soft toys must be laundered in the washing machine
- all toys to be stored in a clean container or cupboard
- water play toys should be dried after each use
- discourage older children from putting shared toys in their mouths

Spillages of body fluids

- act immediately
- wear disposable gloves and an apron
- use disposable towels/paper roll to wipe up the spill and discard in a plastic bag
- use soapy water and a disposable cloth to clean all contaminated surfaces and clear into a plastic bag for disposal
- double bag all disposables and put into outside bin
- wash and dry your hands

Outdoor play

- Area to be checked for cleanliness including animal contamination before children go outside – any animal contamination must be reported to the manager immediately who will deal with it appropriately
- Small outdoor toys to be stored in the shed when not in use

- Small outdoor toys contaminated with body fluids to be washed in soapy water, and thoroughly dried
- Large outdoor toys to be stored in the shed and cleaned as for small toys
- Outdoor shoes/wellies to be removed on the decking area at area
- Staff and children to wash and dry hands thoroughly after boots, jackets, etc. have been removed

Animals:

- If a child comes into contact with an animal, e.g. pats a dog while out on a walk, the child should use anti-bacterial hand gel to clean their hands and then thoroughly wash their hands on return to nursery

Laundry:

- dirty laundry must be stored in the linen basket provided away from clean laundry
- wash and dry hands after handling dirty laundry
- use disposable gloves when handling fabrics contaminated with body fluids
- fabrics contaminated with body fluids must be placed in a plastic bag before being transferred to the kitchen/washing machine
- fabrics contaminated with body fluids must be machine washed at minimum of 40°C

Cooking/Baking:

- children and staff must wash their hands prior to taking part in a cooking/baking activity
- the table top or other surface should be cleaned with soapy water before use;
- the children should be supervised and discouraged from sneezing or coughing over the activity
- Children or staff returning from some periods of illness may not be able to bake - please see the Nursery Manager for more information.
- Good hygiene practices should be encouraged throughout the activity, e.g. washing your hands after sneezing, coughing or blowing your nose.

Food preparation and handling

- wash hands thoroughly prior to handling food
- areas where food is to be placed should be kept clear and wiped down with soapy water prior to food being placed on them
- chopping boards should be washed in the dishwasher after use and replaced frequently
- all staff handling food must ensure that they are following personal hygiene procedures as above
- aprons must be worn, hands washed thoroughly when handling food
- staff are encouraged to eat & socialise at meal times – water may be drunk freely
- any member of staff returning to work after a period of ill health may need to avoid preparing and serving food – this should be discussed with the Nursery Manager as appropriate

Raising children's awareness of good hygiene practices (appropriate to their age and stage) staff should:

- be a good role model
- demonstrate and stress the importance of proper hand washing – remember to use the 'hand wash song'
- ensure that the children know about the importance of cleaning teeth and oral hygiene
- ensure that the children know about the importance of using a tissue to 'catch' sneezes

- ensure that the children know how to put a tissue safely in the bin
- ensure that the children know how infection can be spread through coughing and sneezing
- Promote use of the “snuffle station”

Raising parents’ awareness of good hygiene practices

staff should:

- let parents know what you are doing to raise awareness of good hygiene practices, e.g. through the newsletter
- encourage parents to participate
- remind parents of the rules if necessary:
- Ensure ill children are not to be brought into nursery and children that become unwell during the session are separated from other children and sent home promptly

Dealing with an outbreak of illness

- notify local health protection agency and all advice given to be followed
- children that are sick to be isolated until parents can collect (see sick child policy)
- records of sick children/staff to be kept
- exclusion rules to follow PHE guidelines (e.g. 48 hours for sickness and diarrhoea)
- all staff to be re-briefed on the procedures for an outbreak •
- Parents to be informed of the outbreak and exclusion times •
- sand, playdough, messy play to be taken away until the outbreak is finished.
- More information can be found in our Epidemic and Pandemic Policy

Cleaning during an outbreak of illness and when contaminated

- Toys contaminated with body fluids such as saliva and nasal discharge must be washed in hot soapy water
- Remember to wash and dry your hands after handling contaminated toys, chairs, ...
- All contact surfaces such as door handles, light switches chairs, ...etc. must be wiped with disinfectant / milton spray
- Cleaning routines followed through vigorously, using disinfectant and diluted bleach.
- Cleaning to be done at least twice a day

Policy last reviewed - 03/10/2023