

Infectious illness/disease policy

Rationale

Dilton Marsh Pre-School provides care for healthy children and promote health through identifying allergies and preventing contact with the allergenic substance and through preventing cross infection of viruses and bacterial infections. This includes teaching the children about good hygiene. We ask parents to work with us to limit the spread of illness to other children and members of the team.

Procedure for children with sickness or infectious disease

We ask parents to inform a member of staff if their child has any illness, so that we can display a sign to inform parents, staff and visitors that we have had a case of that infection or illness in pre-school. This allows other parents to be on the lookout for the symptoms in their child.

Children who are unwell with an infectious disease should NOT be at pre-school and they should NOT return until the risk of passing on the infection has passed.

Any child who is known to have suffered from sickness or diarrhoea in the previous 48 hours will not be allowed to attend pre-school.

Where there is a risk of an epidemic or pandemic in the community, we will at all times follow the advice of the Health Protection Agency, including closing the pre-school if necessary to prevent the spread of infection. If any child or adult at the Pre-school contracts a notifiable disease, we will inform Ofsted as required below and follow the advice given by the Health Protection Agency:

- the details of any serious accident, serious illness, injury to, or death of, any child in your care and the action you have taken in response. As a general rule serious accidents and injuries are those requiring treatment by a medical practitioner. Serious illnesses are normally notifiable diseases such as meningitis. They are not usual childhood ailments such as chicken pox
- details of any incident of food poisoning where two or more children cared for on the premises are affected

Illness/Infection Exclusion Period for children

Chicken Pox/Shingles - 5 days from onset of rash as long as spots are crusted over

Cold Sores (Herpes simplex) - None

Conjunctivitis - None (If there is an outbreak we will consider exclusion)

Diarrhoea and/or Vomiting including Rotavirus/Norovirus/Gastroenteritis - 48 hours from the last episode, if as a result of illness or infection. (Also, after 2 or more loose stools in a nursery session, children are required to be sent home and may return 48 hours after the last episode)

Flu Until recovered fully enough to participate in nursery activities

German Measles (Rubella)* 5 days from onset of rash

Glandular Fever None, however must be well enough to participate in nursery activities

Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease None, however must be well enough to participate in nursery activities

Head lice No official policy but please see below.

Impetigo Until lesions are crusted or healed

Measles* 5 days from onset of rash

Meningitis* Until recovered (We will follow the instructions of the local Health Protection Unit)

Mumps* 5 days from onset of swollen glands

Ringworm Until treatment has commenced

Scabies Until treatment has commenced

Scarlet Fever* 5 days after commencing antibiotics

Slapped cheek None, however must be well enough to participate in nursery activities

Threadworm None

* = Notifiable diseases

Please note this list is not exhaustive but contains the most common exclusions. Parents should always seek advice from their GP or Accident and Emergency department regarding the specific symptoms of their child.
NHS Direct 0845 4647 www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk

Head Lice

Although it is not official policy, we request that children with head lice do not attend pre-school until they have been successfully treated. The contagious nature of head lice means that it can rapidly spread among a class making it a far more difficult problem to eradicate than if it were isolated and treated in the initial stages. We ask parents to check their child's head regularly so that any outbreaks can be dealt with swiftly.

Please note: If your child is being tested for a notifiable disease and you are awaiting the results your child is to be excluded from the pre-school until the results have been returned and the child is clear.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of the pre-school held on (date).....

Signed on behalf of the pre-school.....