



BALLYBAY KINDERGARTEN CLG

ILLNESS AND EXCLUSION POLICY

This policy outlines our procedures for managing illness and infection, and the conditions under which a child must be excluded from the service. The aim is to minimise the spread of infectious diseases and ensure the wellbeing of everyone in our care. This policy links to our Infection Control Policy.

Legislative & regulatory framework

This policy is informed by:

Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016

Tusla's Quality and Regulatory Framework (QRF)

Health Service Executive (HSE) "Management of Infectious Disease in Childcare Facilities"

Public Health Advice and Guidance from the Department of Health

General guidelines

Children who are unwell should not attend Cygnet's Nest. If a child becomes ill during the day, parents/guardians will be contacted immediately and asked to collect the child as soon as possible.

Exclusion criteria

Children, colleagues and volunteers will be excluded from Cygnet's Nest under the following circumstances:

CONDITION	EXCLUSION PERIOD (HSE GUIDELINES)
Fever (38°C or higher)	Until fever-free for 24 hours without medication
Diarrhoea	48 hours after last episode
Vomiting	48 hours after last episode
Chickenpox	At least 5 days from onset of rash and until all spots are crusted over
Conjunctivitis	Until treated and discharge has cleared
Hand, foot & mouth disease	Until blisters have dried and the child is well
Impetigo	Until 24 hours after starting antibiotics and sores are dry or covered
COVID-19 (or similar respiratory illness)	As per current HSE/Public Health guidance

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Head lice	No exclusion once treatment has started
Measles, mumps, rubella, whooping cough	Follow HSE exclusions (varies by condition)

Note: A more comprehensive exclusion list is available from the HSE and is followed strictly.

Notification and communication

Parents must inform the Cygnet's Nest if their child has been diagnosed with an infectious disease. Cygnet's Nest will notify parents of any infectious disease outbreak in the setting while maintaining confidentiality.

Relevant authorities (e.g., Tusla, Public Health) will be informed if required.

Returning to Cygnet's Nest

Children may return to Cygnet's Nest when:

They are well enough to fully participate in activities, including outdoor play.

They are free from contagious symptoms as per HSE exclusion guidelines.

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers such as an outbreak of infectious disease or in line with updates from the HSE or Tusla.

This policy was adopted by Ballybay Kindergarten CLG on this 12th day of July 2025.

Persons responsible: Jamie Macleod-Elliott

Designation: Director, Company Secretary & Registered Provider

Signature: _____

Date: 12/07/2025

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