



The Butterfly Rooms (Incorporating Woodlands) LTD

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Registered Charity Number: 1148068 | Ofsted Number: 453859 | Company Number:
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CHILDHOOD ILLNESS POLICY

Policy Statement

This setting is committed to safeguarding and promoting the health, safety and wellbeing of all children, staff, families and visitors. We recognise that children may experience illness during early childhood; however, to reduce the spread of infection and ensure the welfare of all children, clear procedures are in place for managing illness and infectious diseases.

This policy is written in line with the **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework 2026**, current public health guidance and our duty of care as an early years provider.

Legal and Statutory Framework

This policy complies with and is informed by:

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework (effective September 2025 – current 2026)

Health Protection in Children and Young People Settings (UK Health Security Agency)

Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

Children Act 1989 and 2004

Equality Act 2010

Aims of the Policy

The aims of this policy are to:

- Protect children and staff from infectious illness
- Prevent the spread of infection within the setting

- Ensure children who are unwell receive appropriate care
- Provide clear guidance for parents, carers and staff
- Ensure consistent decision-making
- Meet safeguarding and welfare requirements

Responsibilities

The Setting Will:

- Promote good personal hygiene and infection control practices
- Monitor children's health daily
- Take appropriate action when children become unwell
- Follow recognised public health exclusion periods
- Maintain confidentiality while protecting public health
- Keep accurate records of illness, exclusion and incidents
- Inform parents of outbreaks as appropriate
- Notify Ofsted and the local Health Protection Team when required

Parents and Carers Are Expected To:

- Inform the setting of illness before attendance
- Keep children at home when unwell
- Follow exclusion periods before returning their child
- Inform the setting promptly if their child is diagnosed with an infectious or notifiable disease
- Ensure emergency contact details are kept up to date

Daily Health Checks

Children are observed daily on arrival and throughout the session. Staff will monitor for signs including:

- High temperature
- Vomiting or diarrhoea
- Persistent coughing
- Rash with fever
- Lethargy or distress
- Irritability or unusual behaviour
- Admission may be refused if a child appears unwell.

Children Who Are Unwell

Children **must not attend** the setting if they:

- Have had vomiting or diarrhoea within the last 48 hours
- Have a high temperature or signs of infection
- Are unable to participate in normal activities
- Require excessive one-to-one care due to illness
- Have a contagious illness during the exclusion period
- This decision is made in the best interests of the child and others.

Illness While at the Setting

If a child becomes unwell during the day:

- The child will be comforted and supervised in a quiet area
- Parents/carers will be contacted and asked to collect their child promptly
- Emergency services will be contacted if necessary
- The child will remain supervised at all times
- Areas and resources used will be cleaned and disinfected

Exclusion Periods

The setting follows UK public health guidance. Key exclusions include:

Vomiting and/or diarrhoea: **48 hours after last episode**

Chickenpox: **5 days from onset of rash**

Scarlet fever: **24 hours after starting antibiotics**

Impetigo: **24 hours after treatment begins**

Measles: **4 days from onset of rash**

COVID-19: Exclude if symptoms are more than mild

Hand, Foot and Mouth: Usually no exclusion unless the child is unwell

Additional exclusions may be required during outbreaks.

Medication

Medication will only be administered in line with the Medication Policy

Written parental consent is required

Medication must be clearly labelled and prescribed

Antibiotics: children should remain at home for **at least 24 hours** after first dose

Medication will not be used to enable attendance while a child is unwell

Infection Control and Hygiene

The setting takes all reasonable steps to prevent infection, including:

- Regular handwashing routines for children and staff
- Use of PPE where required
- Regular cleaning and sanitising of rooms and equipment
- Safe handling and disposal of bodily fluids
- Food hygiene and cleanliness
- Teaching children age-appropriate hygiene practices

Notifiable Diseases and Outbreaks

Certain illnesses are legally notifiable. If a notifiable disease or suspected outbreak occurs:

- The local Health Protection Team will be contacted immediately
- Ofsted will be notified within the required timescales
- Advice from public health authorities will be followed
- Parents will be informed where appropriate

Attendance During Outbreaks

During an outbreak:

- Additional control measures may be introduced
- Enhanced cleaning routines will be implemented
- Temporary exclusions may be advised by public health authorities
- Parents will be kept informed

Staff Illness

Staff who are unwell or infectious:

- Must not attend work
- Must follow the same exclusion periods
- Must report infectious illnesses to management
- This protects both children and colleagues.

Children with Medical Conditions

Children with long-term or ongoing medical needs:

- Are supported through Individual Healthcare Plans

- Will not be discriminated against
- Will be cared for in line with medical advice and parental consent

Equality and Inclusion

This policy is applied fairly and consistently. No child is excluded due to disability, medical condition or need where reasonable adjustments can be made.

Confidentiality

All illness information is treated confidentially and shared only where necessary to protect health and safety.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed:

Annually

Following changes to guidance or legislation

After serious illness or outbreaks

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This policy was adopted by

The Butterfly Rooms Ltd

On

21st April 2026

Date to be reviewed

21st April 2027

Signed on behalf of the Management
committee



Name of signatory

Miss Aimee Thompson