

WHITLEY LODGE UNDER FIVES

CHILDREN'S SICKNESS/ILLNESS POLICY

Statement of intent

We believe that pre-school is not a suitable or enjoyable place for a child who is ill and as a general principle children who have an infection or are unwell should not be in pre-school. However if a child becomes unwell whilst at pre-school, we will do our best to care for that child, and to take appropriate action.

Legislation and references

Administration of Medicines Policy

Statutory framework for the EYFS 2026

Aim

The aim of this policy is to ensure that children are well to enjoy the full benefit of pre-school and those children who become unwell, whilst at pre-school, are cared for appropriately. We also try to limit where possible the spread of infections.

Method

- If a child becomes unwell in the pre-school, such as having a raised temperature, sickness, diarrhoea (3 bouts or more within a 24 hour period) or pains every effort will be made to contact the parent to take the child home. The parents will be given full details of the child's symptoms so that they can decide whether or not the child needs to see a doctor. If the parents are not immediately available or someone on the emergency contact list, the child will be cared for by staff and will not be left alone. If the child has a raised temperature, they will be kept cool by removing their jumper/ top and their temperature will be checked regularly and they will be given a drink of water.
- If a parent knows their child is unwell, they should not bring them into pre-school, but if a child arrives who appears to be unwell it is at the discretion of the pre-school Leader as to whether or not the child is well enough to attend pre-school.
- Young children are susceptible to illnesses and infections and where children are in close contact with one another, infections can spread easily. Parents are required to keep their child at home if they have the following:
 - ☐ A visible rash – until it has been diagnosed by the GP.
 - ☐ Any communicable or notifiable disease e.g. chickenpox, measles, rubella. The child should be excluded from pre-school as directed by the GP or Health Visitor. A guide to infectious periods of common childhood illnesses and a list of notifiable diseases (i.e. diseases which the GP has to notify the Local Authority about) is attached. If a child has one of these illnesses all parents will be informed, as some of these illnesses pose a severe risk to pregnant women and children who have medical conditions.

- If the child has other conditions, such as impetigo and parasites – such as scabies, head lice and worms, they can return to pre-school once they have received treatment advised by the GP or health visitor. If a child has one of these infections, all parents will be informed so that they can be vigilant and seek prompt treatment for their child if necessary.
 - Any eye or ear discharge can often be infectious. The child should be excluded until the discharge has cleared or the GP has confirmed it is not infectious.
 - Diarrhoea/vomiting. The child may return to pre-school when they have been clear of symptoms for 48 hours.
- The pre-school has a duty to notify Ofsted of any food poisoning, affecting two or more children and also any serious illnesses, so it is important that parents share this information with pre-school. (Notification will be made to Ofsted as soon as reasonably practicable but within 14 days of us being informed)
- Although a sick child should not be brought to pre-school it is recognised that some illnesses develop quickly and a child who has arrived looking and feeling perfectly well may become very ill, e.g. meningitis. If this happens and the child's parents cannot be contacted the Leader will ring for an ambulance. Any child, who has to go to hospital, would be accompanied by a member of staff, who would take the child's registration form. This would show parents permission to obtain necessary medical treatment and any health information. The responsibility for medical treatment would rest with the hospital staff until the child's parents arrive.
- If a child requires medication whilst at pre-school the procedures outlined in the Medicines Policy will be followed.