

Sickness and Illness Policy

At **Orchard Day Nursery Cambridge** we promote the good health, wellbeing and safety of all children attending including oral health in our care. We understand that children are particularly vulnerable to infections.

Our procedures

In order to take appropriate action of children who become ill and to minimise the spread of infection we implement the following procedures:

- If a child becomes ill during the nursery day, we contact their parent(s)/ carers and ask them to pick up their child as soon as possible (ideally within one hour. During this time we care for the child in a quiet, calm area with the familiar adult (wearing PPE), wherever possible
- We follow the guidance published by UK Health Security Agency for managing specific infectious diseases¹ and advice from our local health protection unit on exclusion times for specific illnesses, e.g. sickness and diarrhoea, measles and chicken pox, to protect other children in the nursery. Enhanced cleaning procedures will be implemented where necessary.
- Should a child have an infectious disease, such as sickness and diarrhoea, they must not return to nursery until they have been clear for at least 48 hours.
- Staff who are unwell, particularly with vomiting, diarrhoea, or contagious illnesses, must not attend work and must follow the same exclusion guidance.
- We ask parents to keep children on antibiotics at home for the first 48 hours of the course (unless this is part of an ongoing care plan to treat individual medical conditions, e.g. asthma and the child is not unwell). This is because it is important that children are not subjected to the rigours of the nursery day, which requires socialising with other children and being part of a group setting, when they have first become ill and require a course of antibiotics
- We make information and posters about head lice readily available and all parents are requested to regularly check their children's hair. If a parent finds that their child has head lice, we would be grateful if they could inform the nursery so that other parents can be alerted to check their child's hair.

We have the right to refuse admission to a child who is unwell. This decision will be taken by the manager on duty, and these applies:

- Have a high temperature, that cannot be managed without medication (38C or above)
- Are vomiting or have diarrhoea
- Have a contagious illness
- Are not well enough to participate in normal activities
- Chicken pox: until all spots have crusted over (usually 5-7 days)
- Measles: 4 days from onset of rash
- Conjunctivitis: no exclusion unless child is unwell

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/managing-specific-infectious-diseases-a-to-z>

- Hand, Foot and Mouth: no exclusion unless child is unwell
- Impetigo: Until lesions healed or 48 hours after antibiotics started
- Scarlet fever: 24 hours after starting antibiotics.

Children must be free with any above symptoms or completed the required exclusion period before returning. Parents are expected to inform the setting if their child has a contagious illness. Provide up-to-date emergency contact details.

We will follow the transporting children to hospital procedure in any cases where children may need hospital treatment.

The nursery manager or selected staff member must:

- Inform a member of the management team immediately
- Call 999 for an ambulance immediately if the illness is severe.
- Follow the instructions from the 999 call handler
- Whilst waiting for the ambulance, a member of staff must contact the parent(s) and arrange to meet them at the hospital
- Redeploy staff if necessary to ensure there is adequate staff deployment to care for the remaining children. This may mean temporarily grouping the children together
- Arrange for the most appropriate member of staff to accompany the child taking with them any relevant information such as registration forms, relevant medication sheets, medication and the child's comforter
- Remain calm at all times. Children who witness an incident may well be affected by it and may need lots of cuddles and reassurance. Staff may also require additional support following the accident.

This policy will be reviewed at least annually in consultation with staff and parents and/or after a significant incident, e.g. serious illness and/or hospital visit required.

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
August 2026	Sachini Sachini Gamage (Nursery Manager)	August 2027