

It is important that everyone complies with the latest Government guidance on Coronavirus.

As a childcare provider, we take health and safety in our nurseries extremely seriously. Considering the current outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) We have developed these Safe Operating Procedures based on guidance from the Department of Education and Public Health England specifically for Early Years. It is important that we adapt our everyday practices to ensure that we continue to offer the staff and children a safe environment. Hygiene and social distancing remain the two key elements of infection prevention and control. If any symptoms are displayed, families must be alert and self-isolate for the safety of everyone.

Covid-19 appears to affect young children less often and with less severity. Children's role in its transmission is unclear but it seems that it is not significant.

Compassionate leadership is at the heart of this reopening and we will do everything we can to be honest, open and to communicate with you. There will be a lot of anxieties and we acknowledge that it is OK to feel worried and that COVID-19 and the lockdown has had an impact on everyone.

Everyone involved in the day to day running of the nurseries will receive appropriate instruction and training on how to operate under the terms of the Safe Operating Procedures.

There is always a risk when children come into a childcare setting but we are doing everything possible to minimise this risk. We are constantly updating our procedures to take account of any changes in government or local authority guidelines.

We aim to work in partnership with parents and trust that everyone understands and follows these Safe Operating Procedures.

The key principles of these procedures are:

1. Any staff member, children, parent or visitor with coronavirus symptoms must not attend nursery and must isolate at home
2. Increased cleaning processes are in place, throughout and at the end of the day
3. Children and staff will be social distancing as far as possible
4. Children will each day stay in key groups to ensure continuity of staffing and children
5. Key groups will be in place inside and outside
6. Arrival and departure will be staggered and children will be dropped off at separate entrances, where this is possible.
7. Parents will not come on site or visit the nursery rooms unless this is explicitly arranged with the Nursery Manager e.g. in the event of a child being distressed
8. The process for settling in sessions will be managed away from the other children

Attendance

Children and staff are welcome to attend nursery but must not be displaying any coronavirus symptoms, the most common being a new continuous cough, a high temperature or a loss of taste and smell.

It is important that you seek medical advice if you are unsure.

It is important that children do not attend nursery if unwell for their own wellbeing and for the safety of others.

If anyone is experiencing any symptoms they cannot return to nursery until they have completed the required isolation period and be symptom free or have achieved a negative test result (proof will be required). Prompt exclusion is essential to preventing the spread of infection. Children and staff who are classed as clinically vulnerable should follow their medical advice before attending nursery.

It is preferable that your child only attends one setting to avoid mixing with different groups of children.

Drop off and collection of children

Parents are asked to drop off and collect their children at designated entrances and not to enter the nursery. Whilst parents are waiting, it is important to maintain social distancing by keeping a distance of 2 metres apart. It is preferable if only one parent does the drop off and collection.

Parents will be allocated a suggested time for arrival and drop off to ease pressure waiting outside.

Children will be assigned to a key group based on the room they are in and a staff member from that group will be responsible for collecting and delivering that child back to the parents. We will give you a limited handover, unless there is an important issue to discuss, as other parents may be waiting.

Temperature and symptom monitoring

Routine temperature testing is not recommended as a reliable method for identifying coronavirus. Parents and employees should follow the NHS guidelines and, in particular, evidence of a high temperature and/or new continuous cough.

Travel to nursery

It is better not to share transport and to travel by car, bike or walk. Face coverings have been advised by the Government for use on public transport.

Implementing social distancing

It is very difficult to avoid a level of physical interaction with young children and it is important to have their wellbeing at the centre of everything we do. If a child is in need of

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a hug, then it would not be fair to deny this. To help with social distancing the children will be grouped in small groups with a staff member. Social distancing will also apply to coat pegs and seating arrangements.

Playrooms and groups

We aim to keep children in their groups which will be identified by their usual room name for example, one group in each room, messy room, main room and room one.

The staff will organise designated areas, indoors and outdoors, for the children in their groups. Children will have access to the full range of activities that are considered safe at this time.

Mealtimes

- As always, children will eat in their rooms.
- The practitioners will serve the children.
- No food will be eaten out of shared platters or containers.

Employees

All staff members will undergo a return-to-work induction and training on the new Safe Operating Procedures, with emphasis on good hygiene practices and maintaining social distancing.

Fire drills and lockdown practice

use three different route

If we have to respond to a fire or emergency lockdown, we will continue to manage social distancing, as far as possible. The safety of the children and employees will always come first.

Wellbeing

We know that this is a very unusual and worrying time for everyone. It is very important that at the forefront of this heightened awareness of safe operating procedures, we do not forget that care and consideration must be taken of the need to ensure that everyone within the nursery community feels safe and secure. We will try our best to create a normal nursery environment and hope that you will bear with us.

We will be concentrating on fostering those secure attachments and, whilst we will be constantly observing and assessing the children, we will not be posting online observations or carrying out lengthy handovers. We want our team to spend time with the children, playing and building their relationships.

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We would always speak with you immediately if we had any concerns. If your child is expressing any concerns or worries, it is important that you inform the keyperson/ Manager .

Visitors

Settling in sessions/transitions

Parents may enter the nursery for the purpose of settling-in sessions, if not doing so would cause a child distress. The Manager will give further guidance on the day. It is important that social distancing continues to be maintained. The parents will not be able to spend time in the children's rooms in order to minimise any risk of infection.

We will aim to organise groups of children who are due to transition so they can transition together. However, some children who were due to transition might need the reassurance of the family group they were part of in order to feel safe and secure and parents might prefer them to stay within a particular age group. The Manager will assist with this.

Visitors

Visitors to the nursery will not be encouraged unless it involves a safeguarding issue that cannot be resolved by telephone. There will be no parents' evenings for the time being, nor any other mass events such as pre-school graduations.

Contractors

Any contractors to the nursery will be reminded of Public Health England guidance prior to entering the building.

Health, Hygiene and Safety

Reducing the spread of the virus

It is recognised that good hygiene and cleaning practices will significantly reduce the spread and transmission of the virus as well as everyone being alert to the symptoms. Doors and windows will be opened as much as possible.

Cleaning

An enhanced cleaning schedule will be implemented throughout and at the end of the day. Communal areas, door handles and shared facilities e .g. tablets, must be regularly cleaned. The staff members will be responsible for recording these cleaning schedules.

The rate of hand washing must be significantly increased. Everyone, including children, must wash their hands on arrival at nursery. If no washbasins are available, sanitiser will be available. There will be regular opportunities for hand washing throughout the day.

Use of Tissues

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The children will be supported in age-appropriate ways to understand the steps they can take to keep themselves and others safe and this includes sneezing into a tissue (or their arm if immediate) and then to dispose of the tissue.

Toileting

The children will be taken to the toilets and supervised. Hand washing signs will be displayed to ensure hand washing is thorough and the practitioners will talk to the children about why we are washing our hands.

Clothing

All employees and children should wear clean clothing every day. If you have travelled on public transport, it is advised that you change your clothing on arrival at nursery. Children should bring one bag with changes of clothing to last their weekly booking pattern and take it home with them at the end of the week.

Risk assessments

All risk assessments will reflect the risk of transmission of COVID-19. Certain activities will be adapted or removed to reflect this risk e.g. going on trips using coaches.

Items from home

We would prefer no toys or comforters to be brought into nursery but do understand that this could cause distress.

Resources at Nursery

Toys and resources that are difficult to clean will be removed, including cushions and soft toys. The children will only share toys and activities within their groups. We will aim to sanitise items at the end of each day. Each child will have their own individual box with resources such as pen. Pencil, chalk in them which will be cleaned at the end of the day. Children will have their own playdough which will be thrown away at the end of the day.

Responding to a person displaying symptoms of COVID-19

A child

If a child is suspected of displaying coronavirus symptoms whilst attending the nursery, they should be collected as soon as possible and isolate at home in line with NHS guidance. The child must be tested before they return.

Whilst waiting to be collected, they will be isolated from others in a designated area. A staff member will stay with them and will wear PPE.

If the child becomes very unwell, we will follow our normal emergency procedures and call 999.

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The isolation area will be cleaned once the child has been collected.

An employee who displays symptoms

In the event of an employee developing coronavirus symptoms whilst at work, they will leave work as soon as possible and isolate at home in line with NHS guidance. They will be required to have a test before they return.

PPE Equipment

Government guidance is that PPE is not required for general use in nurseries to protect against COVID-19 transmission. Hand washing, effective cleaning and social distancing are the most effective measures. Gloves and aprons will be used for nappy changing and first aid. Aprons will be worn at mealtimes. Masks will be available for PPE.

Reporting, testing and tracing

Everyone over the age of five, children, parents and members of their households, is now eligible for a COVID-19 test, should they display coronavirus symptoms.

Any suspected or confirmed case must be reported to the Manager as soon as possible. If a positive result is confirmed, the staff and children associated with that group must self-isolate for 14 days before returning to nursery. Positive tests will be reported to Public Health England and Ofsted by the Nursery Manager.

If there is reasonable evidence that a positive diagnosis was caused by exposure at work, this will be reported to RIDOR.