



# Children's Illness and Absence Policy

## Infectious and Communicable Diseases

Reviewed on	Approved by
06.05.2021	N Crump
08.11.2022	S Crump

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05.01.2024	G Baker
10.10.2024	S Crump

## POLICY STATEMENT

*Charters Ancaster Nursery and Forest School is committed to the health and safety of all children and staff who play, learn and work here. We recognise it is our responsibility to ensure the wellbeing of our children, staff, and parents through identifying and discussing health issues in an open and positive way. We endeavour to maintain the best standards of care for our children and to ensure their health and wellbeing is maintained at all times.*

***The measures listed below are put in place to safeguard the whole of the nursery, without doing so we would be unable to operate. This could result in room closures due to lack of staff.***

To maintain a clean and healthy environment we ask that parents/carers refrain from bringing their child into nursery if they are sick and/or displaying signs of illness to avoid a further spread of illness among children and staff.

The Nursery will take necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection and so in accordance with the procedures set out in the Health and Safety and First Aid Policies, parents/carers will be notified immediately if their child has become ill and needs to go home. Poorly children will be comforted, kept safe and under close supervision until they are collected.

We operate an 'open door' policy towards parents/carers in the nursery, so please feel free to discuss any concerns about your child with their Key person, Room Leader or Nursery Manager.

WE AIM TO: -

- Ensure sick children are identified
- Ensure sick children are cared for appropriately
- Protect children and adults from preventable infection.

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- Enable our staff and parents to be clear about the requirements and procedures when a child is unwell.

#### PROCEDURES:-

- If any child is thought to be not well, we will assess the condition of the child in a kind and caring manner. The child may become distressed, so it is important to be calm and reassuring. The Nursery Manager or Deputy Manager in their absence must be consulted of any sick children being requested to go home.
- We understand the needs of working parents and will not exclude children unnecessarily. It is however at the discretion of the Manager or Deputy Manager in their absence when requesting the exclusion of a child for illness or infection and that decision is final. This decision will be made to consider both the needs of the child and other children within the group.

#### EXCLUDING A CONTAGIOUS CHILD

- Any child with an infectious or contagious disease will be excluded for a certain period. If staff suspect that a child is infectious or has a contagious disease, they will advise that parents consult a doctor before returning to the nursery and adhere to exclusion periods.
- Should a child become ill whilst at nursery, the Key person or Room Leader will contact the parent or emergency contact. We ask that the child be collected within one hour if possible. The child will be comforted by a member of the team, who will take appropriate action which will include medical advice, if necessary, whilst awaiting the arrival of the parent /carer.
- Our staff will report any worries about a child's health or well-being to the parent/carer immediately. Parent/carers are responsible for keeping the Nursery informed about their child's health.
- We advise that no child may attend Nursery whilst suffering from a communicable disease and that they should be excluded for the periods recommended. Please see our guidelines for illness/communicable diseases.

#### IN THE EVENT OF A 'TEMPERATURE'

- Parents/carers will be contacted should their child have a high temperature of 38c/101F or higher and will be requested to collect their child as soon as possible if all reasonable attempts to bring the temperature down fail.

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- Staff will attempt to reduce the child's temperature by removing excess clothing, keeping them in a cool area and hydrated.

#### CALPOL

- Non- prescribed medication for example teething gel / Calpol/Ibuprofen may be administered after the Administration of Medicine Consent Form has been completed and signed.
- Staff will ring the parent or carer if Calpol / ibuprofen if needed.
- The nursery will only administer non-prescribed medication for short periods of time. After such time medical treatment should be sought.
- If the nursery feels the child would benefit from seeking medical attention rather than continuing with nonprescribed medication the nursery reserves the right to refuse nursery care until the child is seen by a medical practitioner.
- If a child has been given Calpol before starting their nursery session, the parent/carer should inform the child's Key Person/Room Leader in case further Calpol is required e.g for a fever.
- A child will not be refused admission for being given Calpol prior to nursery, however, if we feel that the child is not coping well with nursery routines, requires 1:1 attention or symptoms worsen then parents will be asked to collect them.

#### MINOR ILLNESSES

- Coughs and colds do not necessarily require the child to be excluded from the nursery, but this will depend on the severity and how the child is able to cope with the nursery routine. A child who appears unwell may be refused admission or parents may be asked to collect them. This will be at the discretion of the Nursery Manager or Deputy Manager.
- If your child has not been their normal self at home but is not showing signs of illness when brought into the nursery, please mention it to your child's key person or Nursery Manager to let them know how to best contact you during the day and how they can support your child whilst they are at nursery in case any signs or symptoms develop.

#### RETURN AFTER BEING SENT HOME

- If a child has had to go home prematurely due to illness, they should remain at home until they are better or at least 24 hours, or according to the times set out in the table below.
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#### EMERGENCY HOSPITAL TRIP PROCEDURES

- Should a member of the management team consider an illness or a situation needs immediate medical attention, the emergency services will be contacted to take the child directly to hospital and the parent/carer will be contacted accordingly.
- **In the unlikely event of the parent/carer not being available the most senior member of staff will assume charge and if necessary, take the child to hospital along with relevant details and another member of staff. The most senior staff member left in the Nursery will take charge there until the Nursery Manager or Deputy Manager returns.**

#### SURGICAL PROCEDURES

- In the event of a child having a surgical procedure, (e.g. tonsillectomy, appendectomy) they should not return to the Nursery for at least 2 weeks to ensure proper healing and recovery at home to minimise infection. Parents/carers should inform the child's Key Person or Room Leader of any specific measures or considerations needed on return after this 2-week period.  
Any sessions missed during the recovery period will not be charged for.
- **General Anaesthetic-** Following a minor procedure that has required a general anaesthetic, the child will be required to stay at home for 2 days or 48hrs after the procedure. They will then be permitted to return but will be closely monitored and if staff feel they are struggling with the effects of the anaesthetic, may be required to go home and take longer, as we are aware that children can react differently.

#### BREAKS AND FRACTURES

- If a child has a broken or fractured bone and requires a cast, we ask for a letter from the child's GP or hospital so that we can make an informed risk assessment for the child whilst at nursery.

#### HEAD INJURIES

- If a child has a head injury at home it is our policy that they be watched at home for at least 24 hours after the event, as stipulated on the NHS website. If a child has been sent to the hospital for advice or treatment then 48 hrs may be advised for monitoring if they have had signs of concussion or treatment such as stitches.
- The reasons for this is that the child needs to be closely monitored which, as a setting, with strict ratio's, this cannot be guaranteed.

#### NOTIFYING THE NURSERY OF ILLNESS

- If a child becomes ill outside of nursery hours, parents/carers should notify the nursery as soon as possible. The minimum exclusion periods outlined in the table below will then come into operation.

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#### NOTIFYING PARENTS OF ILLNESS IN THE NURSERY

- If any infectious or communicable disease is detected within the nursery's premises, the nursery will inform parents/carers personally in writing as soon as possible. The Nursery is committed to sharing as much information as possible about the source of the disease and the steps being taken to remove it where appropriate. Ofsted will also be informed of any infectious or communicable diseases discovered within the nursery's premises.

#### ONGOING DISCHARGE FROM NOSE/EYES/EARS

- A child has ongoing discharge from their ears, nose or eyes. The parent/carer will be advised to seek advice before their child is allowed back to the nursery and in some cases, a doctor's note may be required before returning.

#### CONJUNCTIVITIS

- If discharge from the eyes is noticed by a member of staff, in the first instance the Nursery Manager or Deputy Manager will be asked to assess whether the child needs medical advice.
- If the child is sent home with suspected conjunctivitis the parents must seek advice from either a doctor or pharmacist on what treatment is required.
- The child can only return to nursery 24 hours after they have been treated with the first dose of treatment. After this time and if conjunctivitis appears controlled the child may then return to nursery.
- A member of staff can only administer treatment 24 hours after the first dose of the medication.
- **When medication is not given to a confirmed case of conjunctivitis the child should only return to nursery when the symptoms have cleared up completely.**

#### UNEXPLAINED RASH

- If a child develops an unexplained rash, parents/carers will be informed and may be requested to seek medical advice which they should follow before the child returns to nursery.

#### HEAD LICE

- No exclusion but the parent will be notified before or when they collect their child. Parents are encouraged to ensure frequent checking and combing of their child's hair with a specified fine-toothed comb.
- In cases of stubborn lice, over the counter treatment is advised from a pharmacy.

### MINIMUM EXCLUSION PERIODS FOR ILLNESS AND DISEASE

**\* Children who have been sent home with a temperature (24 hours) and those on prescribed antibiotics (48 hours) are required to stay home until their next session after the time period has elapsed. A head injury should be monitored for 24-48 hrs.**

Disease	Period of Exclusion
Antibiotics prescribed *	Minimum of 48 hours from the first dose.
Chicken Pox	If ALL the spots are scabbed over and dried up the child may return to nursery (usually around 5 days from when the rash first appeared.)
Conjunctivitis	24 hours after treatment or until it has cleared up.
Coronavirus Covid-19	The most recent Government guidance for Coronavirus should be followed.
Croup	Croup is contagious, seek medical attention. The child should not attend nursery until fully recovered.
Diarrhoea & Sickness	A child who has sickness or diarrhoea whilst at the nursery is to be collected immediately and kept away for <b>48 hours</b> from the last time, they were sick or had a runny stool. Children who have 3 or more loose stools in a nursery session will be sent home.
Diphtheria	<b>Exclusion as advised by Public Health. Highly contagious</b>
Gastro-enteritis, food poisoning	Return when symptoms have ceased.
General Anaesthetic	At least 48hours.
German Measles (Rubella)	Minimum of 4 days absence from the onset of the rash. NB Rubella can be harmful to expectant mothers
Glandular Fever	Until certified well. Must be well enough to participate in the nursery activities.
Hand, Foot, and Mouth disease	While spots/blisters are present usually 5-10 days. Spots must be dried up and uninflamed to return.

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<b>Hepatitis A</b>	7 days from onset of jaundice and when recovered and declared fit by a doctor.
<b>Hepatitis B</b>	Until clinically well as declared fit by the doctor.
<b>Head injury/Concussion</b>	24 hrs, 48hr if signs of concussion, if pain relief is needed, or stitches have been required
<b>High temperature *</b>	24 hours
<b>Impetigo (and other infectious skin disorders e.g. cold sores)</b>	Highly infectious. The child should not return until all scabs have cleared from the infected area and the skin has completely healed.
<b>Infective hepatitis</b>	7 days from the onset
<b>Measles</b>	7 days from when the rash first appeared.
<b>Meningitis</b>	Until certified well by a doctor
<b>Mumps</b>	7 days minimum or until the swelling has subsided and the child's temperature is normal.
<b>Pediculosis (lice)</b>	Until treatment has been given
<b>Pertussis (Whooping cough)</b>	14 days from the start of the cough without treatment. 48 hrs after antibiotics if treated
<b>Plantar warts</b>	No exclusion. Should be treated and covered.
<b>Poliomyelitis (Polio)</b>	Until certified well by appropriate public health official
<b>Ringworm</b>	Until treatment has been given.
<b>Salmonella and Dysentery</b>	24 hours or until advised by the doctor.
<b>Scabies-red itchy rash between the fingers.</b>	Requires immediate treatment and then the child can return once it is given.
<b>Scarlet fever and streptococcal</b> <i>(The bacteria can cause throat and ear infections; pinpoint rash and the skin becomes dry and flaky.)</i>	A child cannot be accepted until fully recovered and a course of treatment is completed.



<b>Slapped cheek disease, Fifth disease-</b> red cheeks, sore throat, high temperature.	<b>This disease can be harmful to expectant mothers therefore do not bring your child to Nursery until they are fully recovered.</b>
<b>Threadworms</b>	No need for exclusion but prompt treatment is necessary for the whole family. The Nursery should be informed to avoid spread.
<b>Tonsillitis-</b> <i>Tonsil's swell, become red and inflamed, and may show spot</i>	Until feeling well enough to join in with normal activities, and 48 hours after antibiotics have been administered if applicable.
<b>Infection of the throat</b>	3 days from the start of the treatment
<b>Tuberculosis</b>	Please liaise with the local Health Authority.  A child may not return to nursery until fully recovered.
<b>Typhoid fever</b>	Until declared free from infection by a doctor or appropriate Health official.

- This list is not necessarily exhaustive, and staff are encouraged to contact local health services if they are in any doubts about any of the above illnesses.
- Parents/carers/staff should remember that if they or any other member of the family have any of the above illnesses, your child may not show any symptoms but may be incubating the illness and therefore infecting other Nursery users and staff.