



Play, Learn and Grow Together – Our Passion is Their Future

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Illness & Exclusion Policy

Policy Statement

St Helen's Pre-School aim to promote a healthy environment, good health and take the necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection for the children in our care and we seek the co-operation of parents to help us to implement this policy.

Procedures for Children who are Sick or Infectious

- If children appear unwell during the day an unwell form will be completed (appendix a) – for example, if they have a temperature, sickness, diarrhoea or pains, particularly in the head or stomach the key person will call the parents and ask them to collect the child, or to send a known carer to collect the child on their behalf.
- If a child has a temperature, they are kept cool, by removing top clothing and sponging their heads with cool water, but kept away from draughts.
- The child's temperature is taken using a thermometer, kept in the first aid box and recorded on the unwell child form.
- If the child's temperature does not go down and is worryingly high (over 38°C), then we may give them paracetamol, after first obtaining verbal consent from the parent where possible. This is to reduce the risk of febrile convulsions. Parents sign the medication record when they collect their child (appendix b).
- In extreme cases of emergency, an ambulance is called and the parent informed.
- Parents are asked to take their child to the doctor before returning them to the setting.
- We will refuse admittance to children who have been given paracetamol or ibuprofen, have sickness and diarrhoea or a contagious infection or disease as stated in the Public Health Agency Guidance on Infection Control in Schools and Childcare Settings.
- Where children have been prescribed antibiotics for an infectious illness, we ask parents to keep them at home for 48 hours before returning to the setting.
- After diarrhea and vomiting, we ask parents keep children home for 48 hours following the last episode.
- Some activities, such as sand and water play, and self-serve snacks where there is a risk of cross-contamination may be suspended for the duration of any outbreak.
- If parents/carers notice their child becoming ill or infectious they must inform the Pre-School and they must have regard to the exclusion list below.

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- If a child becomes ill or infectious at the Pre-School, every effort will be made to contact the parents/carers. It is essential therefore that the Pre-School has up to date information in order to be able to contact the parents/carers during the Pre-Schools hours. If the parent/carer cannot be contacted, Pre-School staff will endeavor to contact the other named contacts on the child's record.
- If the Pre-School is unable to contact a parent/carer or other named contact, St Helen's Pre-School reserves the right to take the child to a general practitioner or hospital in an emergency. Parents/carers will be required to give signed consent for this procedure on registering their child at the Pre-School.

Illness or Infectious Diseases	Period of Exclusion
Chicken pox/shingles	5-7 days after the onset of the rash.
Conjunctivitis	None.
Diarrhoea and/or vomiting	Children and staff should be excluded from the Pre-School until their symptoms have settled and until 48 hours after the last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting.
Glandular fever	There is no benefit in keeping children or staff off once they feel well enough to attend.
Hand, foot and mouth	None, however, whilst the child is unwell, he/she should be kept away from the Pre-School.
Head lice	None. Treatment is only required if live lice are seen in the hair (not nits (eggs)).
Hepatitis	Hep A - Until the child feels well or until 7 days after the onset of jaundice, whichever is the later. Hep B - Children who develop symptoms will be too ill to be at the Pre-School Hep C - Usually no symptoms but care must be taken with bodily fluids if person is known to have Hep C.
HIV / Aids	Should not be restricted or excluded.
Impetigo	Until 24 hours after the start of treatment. If there is an outbreak, stop the use of sand, water, playdough and cooking activities and wash all dressing up clothes. (An outbreak is 2 or more cases of the same infectious organism in a Pre-School).
Measles, mumps and rubella	Measles - yes, until 5 days after the onset of the rash. Mumps - the child should be excluded for 5 days after the onset of swelling. Rubella - for 4 days after onset of the rash, and whilst unwell.
Meningitis	Children will be too ill to attend and there is no need to exclude siblings or other close contacts.
Molluscum contagiosum	None.
Pharyngitis/tonsillitis	If the disease is known to be caused by streptococcal (bacterial) infection the child or member of staff should be kept away from the Pre-School until 24 hours after the start of treatment. Otherwise, they should stay at home while they feel unwell.
Rashes	A child who is unwell and has a rash should visit their GP to establish the reason for it.

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Ringworm (Tinea)	Children need not be excluded but spread can be prevented by good personal hygiene, regular hand washing and use of separate towels and toilet articles. Parents should be encouraged to seek treatment.
Scarlet fever / Scarletina	Once a patient has been on antibiotic treatment for 24 hours they can return, provided they feel well enough.
Slapped cheek syndrome (Erythema Infectiosum/fifth disease)	An affected child need not be excluded because they are no longer infectious by the time the rash occurs.
Scabies	Not necessary, but treatment should be commenced.
Typhoid, paratyphoid (enteric fever)	Yes, an infected child is likely to be very ill and whilst infectious unable to attend the Pre-School.
Tuberculosis (TB)	“Open” cases - until 2 weeks after treatment started. “Open” cases of drug resistant TB when the hospital physician advises. (“open” is determined by sputum samples).
Verrucae	Not necessary.
Whooping cough (Pertussis)	An affected child and unvaccinated contacts under 7 years should be excluded until they have had 5 days of antibiotics.
Worms	Not necessary.

We will actively promote the use of the ‘Catch it, Bin it, and Kill it’ initiative to teach children about good hygiene practices by promoting:

- The use of tissues for coughs and colds
- Access to bins to dispose of used tissues
- Hand washing in warm soapy water as soon as possible, before eating, preparing food and after toileting.

Nits & Head Lice

- Nits and head lice are not an excludable condition; although in exceptional cases we may ask a parent to keep the child away until the infestation has cleared.
- On identifying cases of head lice, we inform the parents ask them to treat their child and all the family if they are found to have head lice.

Procedures for Children with Allergies

- When children start at the setting, we ask their parents if their child suffers from any known allergies. This is recorded on the Enrollment Form.
- If a child has an allergy, we complete a risk assessment form to detail the following:
 - *The allergen (i.e., the substance, material or living creature the child is allergic to such as nuts, eggs, bee stings, cats etc.).
 - *The nature of the allergic reactions (e.g., anaphylactic shock reaction, including rash, reddening of skin, swelling, breathing problems etc.).
 - *What to do in case of allergic reactions, any medication used and how it is to be used (e.g., EpiPen).
 - *Control measures - such as how the child can be prevented from contact with the allergen.
 - *Review measures.

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- This risk assessment form is kept in the child's personal file and a copy is in the medications folder and recorded on our alert board to enable all staff to see it.
- Generally, no nuts or nut products are used within the setting.
- Parents are made aware so that no nut or nut products are accidentally brought in, for example to a party.

Insurance Requirements for Children with Allergies and Disabilities

- If necessary, our insurance will include children with any disability or allergy, but certain procedures must be strictly adhered to as set out below. For children suffering life threatening conditions, or requiring invasive treatments; written confirmation from our insurance provider must be obtained to extend the insurance.
- At all times we ensure that the administration of medication is compliant with the Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage

This policy has been adopted by St Helen's Pre-School

Signed on behalf of the setting by:

..... Chairperson

..... Manager

Date: May 2023

This policy runs in conjunction with the following policies:

- Medications Policy

Relevant Guidance and Legislation

- Public Health Agency Guidance on Infection Control in Schools and Childcare Settings
https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance_on_infection_control_in%20schools_poster.pdf
- Health Protection in Children and Young People Settings, including education
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities>

Appendices – Please note appendices are held at the Pre-School, please ask to view

- a) Unwell Child Form
- b) Medication Record