

**Infection Control (Prevention)**

**Safeguarding & Welfare Requirements: Health**

**Please see guidance from Blackburn with Darwen (In Policy Folder) – Guidance on Management of Health Protection Incidents in Schools and Early Years Settings**

Viruses and infections can be easily passed from person to person by breathing in air containing the virus which is produced when an infected person talks, coughs or sneezes. It can also spread through hand/face contact after touching a person or surface contaminated with viruses.

The best way to prevent a virus or infection from moving around the nursery environment is to maintain high hygiene standards in nursery. To do this we follow the guidance below:

* Encourage all children to use tissues when coughing and sneezing to catch germs.
* Ensure all tissues are disposed of in a hygienic way and all children and staff wash their hands once the tissue is disposed of.
* Develop children’s understanding of the above and the need for good hygiene procedures in helping them to stay healthy.
* Staff to all wear the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when changing nappies, and dealing with any other bodily fluids. Staff are requested to dispose of these in the appropriate manner and wash hands immediately.
* All potties and changing mats are cleaned and sterilised before and after each use.
* Toilets are cleaned at least daily and checked throughout the day.
* Staff are to remind children to wash their hands before eating, after visiting the toilet, playing outside or being in contact with any animal and explain the reasons for this.
* All toys, equipment and resources will be cleaned on a regular basis by following a comprehensive cleaning rota and using antibacterial cleanser or through washing in the washing machine.
* All equipment used by babies and toddlers will be washed or cleaned as and when they need it – this includes when children have put it in their mouths.
* Dummies will be stored in individual hygienic dummy boxes labelled with the child’s name to prevent cross-contamination with other children.
* Toothbrushes (where applicable) will also be stored hygienically to prevent cross-contamination.
* If a dummy or bottle is picked up by another child this is then cleaned immediately and sterilised where necessary.
* Individual bedding will be used by children. This will be stored separately and washed weekly.
* When entering the Baby Room, parents, carers and visitors will be encouraged to remove all outdoor footwear.
* When children are ill we will follow the sickness and absence policy to prevent the spread of any infection in the nursery. Staff are also requested to stay at home if they are contagious.
* The nursery manager retains the right of refusal of all children, parents, staff and visitors who are deemed contagious and may impact on the welfare of the rest of the nursery.
* Parents will be made aware of the need for these procedures in order for them to follow these guidelines whilst in the nursery.
* Each holiday period each room in the nursery will be deep cleaned including carpets and soft furnishings to ensure the spread of infection is limited. This will be implemented earlier if the need arises.
* The nursery will ensure stocks of tissues, hand washing equipment, cleaning materials and sterilising fluid are maintained at all times and increased during the winter months or when cold and flu germs are circulating.