

## 11.0 - COVID 19 – Coronavirus Policy

### **Statement**

We know that in the early years setting children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff. To help prevent the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19), a range of approaches and actions will be employed. These can be seen as a hierarchy of controls that, when implemented, creates an inherently safer system, where the risk of transmission of infection is substantially reduced.

These include:

- minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend childcare settings.
- All staff and children to wash hands/use hand sanitiser upon entering and exiting the building.
- Temperatures of both Staff and children will be taken at the door, if a child has a temperature, they will be sent home.
- Minimise risk by one parent (preferably the same parent) to pick up and drop off at the door, leaving the child's belongings by the door.
- \* All other parents to wait in the car or carpark maintaining a safe distance of two metres until entrance of Pre-School is clear.
- cleaning hands more often than usual - wash hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered
- ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- cleaning frequently touched surfaces and resources often using standard products, such as detergents and bleach
- minimising contact and mixing by altering, as much as possible, the environment.
- Travelling to preschool - walk or cycle to the setting where possible rather than using public transport.
- Ensure children are reminded to catch coughs and sneezes in a tissue and to avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth or putting objects in their mouths.
- Not bringing children if they show signs of having the virus.
- Plan environment to sustain increased cleaning and safety protocols to increase hygiene and safety for both children and staff.
- Parents to discuss child's needs or progress via e-mails or ask for a phone call rather than face to face visits.
- Visits will be suspended during working hours. They will be completed through either video calls to show them the setting or they can visit after the children have left for the day.

The majority of staff in education settings will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work, even if they are not always able to maintain distance of 2 metres from others. PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases:

- Children, young people and students whose care routinely already involves the use of PPE due to their intimate care needs should continue to receive their care in the same way.
- If a child, young person or other learner becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus (COVID19) while in their setting, and needs to be cared for until they can return home, a facemask should be worn if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. If contact with the child or young person is necessary, then gloves, an apron and a facemask should be worn. If a risk assessment determines there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, for example from coughing, spitting, or vomiting, then eye protection should also be worn. See risk assessment for full details

### **Extra-curricular activities**

To help minimise risk and keep the risk of infection low. Extra-curricular activities will be suspend/postponed and will be continuously reviewed alongside the government guidelines. Examples of activities include, Breakfast club, Checkendon fun run, sports day, leavers celebrations, Diddi Dance, Little chefs. These will all be reviewed and will be slowly brought back when government guidelines say it is safe to do so.

### **Testing and contact tracing in education and childcare settings**

Staff complete twice weekly Lateral flow tests.

Testing is available for all Pre-School staff and their household members. All those children eligible to attend, and members of their households, will have access to testing if they display symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19). To access testing parents should call 111 if the child is under 5. This will enable them to get back into childcare or education, and their parents or carers to get back to work, if the test proves to be negative. In the event of a child or member of staff testing positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), the relevant group of people within the Pre-School with whom the child has mixed closely (their cohort), should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days.

### **Fees and Termly payments**

All fees are paid termly and payment is due within two weeks of receiving the bill. If your child does not attend these sessions for any reason or the setting has to close unexpectedly due to unforeseen circumstances you will still have to pay for your booked sessions, refer to terms and conditions.

### **If a child shows signs of Covid-19**

If a child becomes unwell and shows symptoms of COVID -19 while at Pre-School and needs to be cared for until they can return home, they will be isolated from other children on the stage area with one member of staff who will be required to put on the appropriate PPE. Parents are called to pick the child up immediately. The main symptoms of coronavirus are: a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature) a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual) a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

## **Closure of Pre-School as a result of COVID-19**

In the event that a member of staff shows signs of Coronavirus [COVID-19] while at the setting, the staff member will have to take a LFD test, if this shows a positive result Pre-school will have to close and the staff and children will need to be tested for the virus. The pre-school will have to remain closed until the staff members isolation period time has been completed, following the government guidelines.

This policy works alongside and complies with existing policies such as safeguarding and health and safety policies.

These can be found on our website or you can ask a member of staff to provide you with a paper copy.

This policy was adopted by: Checkendon Pre-School C.I.O.

On: 28/05/2020

Date to be reviewed:

Signed on behalf of the provider

Name of signatory Role of signatory (e.g. chair, director or owner):

### **Further guidance and documents**

Planning guide for early years and childcare settings – 24/05/2020:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider-opening-of-early-years-and-childcare-settings-from-1-june/planning-guide-for-early-years-and-childcare-settings> Safe working in education, childcare and children's social care:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-car](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care)