



## Sickness and Illness Policy

April 2024

At Elsworth Pre-School we promote the good health of all children attending. To help keep children healthy and minimise infection, we do not expect children to attend if they are unwell. If a child is unwell, it is in their best interest to be in a home environment with adults they know well rather than at pre-school with their peers.

To take appropriate action of children who become ill and to minimise the spread of infection, we have the following procedures in place:

- If a child becomes ill during the pre-school day, we will contact their parent(s) and ask them to collect their child as soon as possible. During this time, we care for the child in a quiet, calm area.
- We follow the “Guidance on Infection Control in Schools and other Childcare Settings” published by Public Health England and advice from our local Health Protection Unit on exclusion times for specific illnesses, e.g. sickness and diarrhoea, measles, and chicken pox, in order to protect other children in the pre-school.
- Should a child have an infectious disease, such as sickness and diarrhoea, they must not return to pre-school until they have been clear for at least 48 hours. We notify Ofsted as soon as possible and in all cases within 14 days of the incident where we have any child or staff member with food poisoning. We inform all parents if there is a contagious infection identified in the pre-school, to enable them to spot the early signs of this illness. We thoroughly clean and sterilise all equipment and resources that may have come into contact with a contagious child to reduce the possible spread of infection.
- We exclude all children on antibiotics for the first 24 hours of the course (unless this is part of an ongoing care plan to treat individual medical conditions, e.g. asthma, and the child is not unwell) This is because it is important that children are not subjected to the rigours of the pre-school day, which requires socialising with other children and being part of a group setting, when they have first become ill and require a course of antibiotics
- We have the right to refuse admission to a child who is unwell. This decision will be taken by the manager on duty and is non-negotiable.



- We exclude all children who have had Calpol within 24 hours, we ask the child to be clear of medication before returning to Pre-School, unless having it for medical reasons e.g. a recent operation, temperature.
- All parents are requested to regularly check their children's hair for head lice on a regular basis. If a parent finds that their child has head lice, they should inform the pre-school so that other parents can be alerted to check their child's hair too.
- If a parent informs the pre-school that their child has meningitis, the Pre-School Manager will contact the Infection Control (IC) Nurse for their area. The IC Nurse will give guidance and support in each individual case. If parents do not inform the pre-school, we will be contacted directly by the IC Nurse and the appropriate support will be given. We will follow all guidance given and notify any of the appropriate authorities including Ofsted if necessary.

**The Pre-school Manager/staff member must:**

- Call for an ambulance immediately if the sickness is severe. They **MUST NOT** attempt to transport the sick child in their own vehicle.
- Whilst waiting for the ambulance, contact the parent(s) and arrange to meet them at the hospital.
- Redeploy staff, if necessary, to ensure there is adequate staff deployment to care for the remaining children. This may mean temporarily grouping the children together.
- Arrange for the most appropriate member of staff to accompany the child taking with them any relevant information such as registration forms, relevant medication sheets, medication, and the child's comforter.
- Inform a member of the management team immediately.
- Remain calm at all times. Children who witness an incident may well be affected by it and may need lots of cuddles and reassurance. Staff may also require additional support following the accident.

**Adoption and annual review of the policy**

<b>Adopted on:</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2024
<b>Adopted by:</b>	Sophie Mills, Pre-School Manager Hannah Holland, Chair of Trustees
<b>Next Review Date:</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2025.