



Short term Illnesses and/or Infectious Procedure

This policy has been devised to ensure that children who become unwell whilst at the nursery are treated with sensitivity and respect. It is also to help us to protect other children from illness and the spread of infection.

This policy is primarily for all EYFS children attending Sunbeams nursery. However while school age children are in our care during extended provision this policy will also include them and hence when the word nursery is used it also means school age children from St John's Catholic Primary.

It is paramount that any medications given within a 12 hour window prior to arrival at nursery be discussed with staff so we can care and safeguard your children to the best of our abilities.

This is so your child does not become overmedicated as well as helping us know your child is healthy and well enough for a day of socialising and playing with their friends.

If your child is unwell the best place for them is at home where they can convalesce in comfortable familiar surroundings, rather than busy environment of nursery.

Procedure

We will follow these procedures to ensure the welfare of all children within the nursery:

- If a child becomes ill during the nursery day, the parent(s) will be contacted and asked to pick their child up as soon as possible. During this time the child will be cared for in a quiet, calm area with their key person or another familiar member of staff within the child's room.
- Should a child have an infectious disease, such as an ear infection or sickness and diarrhoea, they should not return to nursery until they have been clear for at least 48 hours.
- It is vital that we follow the advice given to us by our registering authority and exclude specific contagious conditions, e.g. sickness and diarrhoea and chicken pox to protect other children in the nursery. Illnesses of this nature are very contagious and it is exceedingly unfair to expose other children to the risk of an infection. With a case of conjunctivitis we ask that the child does not return to nursery for 24 hours after starting medication.
- If a contagious infection is identified in the nursery, parents will be informed to enable them to spot the early signs of this illness. All equipment and resources that may have come into contact with a contagious child will be cleaned and sterilised thoroughly to reduce the spread of infection.
- It is important that children are not subjected to the rigours of the nursery 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. Our policy, therefore, is to exclude children on antibiotics for the first 24 hours of the course.
- The nursery has 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.

If an unwell or infectious child comes into nursery:

The nursery lead reserves the right not to accept any child who is unwell into the nursery. It is unfair on the child to be here when they need to be with their parent/carers or having one to one attention. It is



also unfair to the rest of the children who are here if they are knowingly in contact with an illness or infection.

Diarrhoea and vomiting

All children must be kept away from nursery for a minimum of 48 hours after the last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting. If a child is sent home from the nursery the 48 hours exclusion still applies. Therefore if your child is due in the following day they will not be able to attend. Children should only return to nursery when they are well enough and have regained their appetite.

Fever

NHS England denote a Fever, is a high temperature is one that is 38C or higher. All children must be kept away from nursery until their fever has returned to normal. If a child is sent home from the nursery the 24 hours exclusion still applies. Therefore if your child is due in the following day they will not be able to attend. The nursery will not administer any medicine that has not been prescribed by their doctor, pharmacist or dentist for a fever e.g.: Calpol, Nurofen etc.

Nursery staff have the right to refuse to administer any medication with which they feel uncomfortable.

Please can all parents respect our staff team's decisions as our policies are in place to support the holistic health of your child and prevent infection from spreading around the nursery.

If a child becomes unwell whilst at nursery

If a child begins to show signs or symptoms that could pertain to illness they will firstly be comforted by staff. This should be in the form of reassurance, both verbal and physical as appropriate, e.g. cuddles.

The child will be closely monitored and kept comfortable, if there is no signs of improvement then a member of staff will call the parents/carers to come and collect their child. **No medication may be given unless prior permission was obtained from the parent/carer that day and the stated dose is due to be given at that time.**

If the member of staff is unable to contact the parent/carer they will then go on to the next person on the contact list, usually the second parent/carer, continuing down the list of authorised persons as necessary.

Whilst their parent/carers are being contacted the child should continue to be comforted by members of staff.

Plenty of fluids should be offered to the child and if their temperature is higher or lower than usual this should be addressed immediately. Any other symptoms should be treated as necessary.

The child should always be treated with the utmost sensitivity and respect as feeling poorly can be distressing and quite frightening for a child. A member of staff will stay with them to continue monitoring their condition until their parent/carer or authorised person arrives to collect them.

The child should have privacy as much as possible and be able to be in a quiet area away from other children, with the staff member. Usually a quiet area can be made in the child's playroom.

Should a child's symptoms deteriorate whilst waiting for their parent/carers they feel that it is necessary, they should call for an ambulance. Another member of staff will then inform the parent/carers with an update in case they need to go to the local hospital.



First aid should be administered to the child as necessary.

FEBRILE CONVULSIONS, ANAPHYLACTIC SHOCK AND ANY OTHER FIT OR SEIZURE If a child has any of the above an ambulance must be called immediately. Anaphylaxis typically presents with many different symptoms over minutes or hours with an average onset of 5 to 30 minutes if exposure is intravenous and 2 hours for foods. The most common areas affected include: skin (80-90%), respiratory (70%), gastrointestinal (30- 45%), heart and vasculature (10-45%), and central nervous system (10-15%) with usually two or more being involved. Anaphylaxis is a medical emergency that may require resuscitation measures such as airway management, supplemental oxygen, large volumes of intravenous fluids, and close monitoring. Administration of epinephrine (Epipen) may be required and only staff with Epipen training should be called upon to administer such treatment.

This policy was adopted by: St John's Extended provision	Date: September 2023
To be reviewed: September 2024	Signed: Emma Riley