



## **ILLNESS POLICY**

Barnett Wood Pre-School does what it can to promote good health and hygiene of the children attending the setting. We have a duty of care to all children, families and staff and will help teach the children how to help manage their own practices where appropriate. Staff encourage this by planning age appropriate activities with the children to help support a basic understanding on how we can help to stay healthy and safe. Staff check and supervise hand washing and will enforce its importance daily.

When a child registers at the setting parents are asked to:

- Provide contact details for themselves as well as an emergency contact.
- Disclose any known medical conditions
- Give permission for emergency medication to be administered.
- Give permission for the setting to seek medical advice for their child in their absence if needed.
- Let us know if their child is up to date with their childhood immunisations. *If a child is not up to date with her immunisations the manager will be made aware so that the correct procedures are followed should there be a suspected case.*

If a child is feeling unwell, they should not attend Pre-School and should recover at home until they feel well enough to return. If a child is unable to attend Pre-School due to illness, we ask that parents inform us as soon as possible so that we are aware of the reason their child will not be attending and can inform other families that there is illness in the Pre-School, if deemed necessary.

The staff at Barnett Wood Pre-School have experience in dealing with a wide range of childhood illnesses. Whilst staff are knowledgeable and are happy to give advice, we cannot be considered medical practitioners. We therefore ask that should you need medical advice you speak with your GP.

### **Conditions**

#### **Unwell child**

If a child does not seem to be themselves while at Pre-School and does not want to join in with the day's routines a member of staff will phone the parent to inform them of the situation and a plan of action will be discussed. Should the child make no improvement it maybe necessary for the child to be collected so that they can be cared for on an individual basis at home.

#### **Spots and rashes**

Spots and rashes can be a symptom of an infection or an allergy. If a member of staff notices a rash they will check the child's body discreetly to check the extent of the rash. The manager will be informed of the rash and if appropriate this will be monitored throughout the session. If it is thought that the rash could be a contagious illness, the manager/deputy will contact the child's parent describing the rash's size, colour, pattern as well as the child's disposition. The parent will be asked if they know any reason for the rash if appropriate. If it is thought necessary, the Pre-School has antihistamine medication should we believe that this is an allergic reaction. The child's records would be checked for permission prior to administration. If necessary, the parent will be asked to collect the child and go and get the rash checked by a medical practitioner. The child will be able to re-attend the setting when confirmation has been given that it is not infectious to others.

#### **Vomiting**

If a child or member of staff has sickness, they must be excluded from Pre-School for 48 hours from the last episode. If a child is sick, the child will be isolated from the other children along with one member of staff. The child's parents will be phoned to collect their child as soon as possible. Staff should have equipment to hand should another case of sickness present itself while waiting. If a child is sick, they will be offered small sips of water, but we will not offer any food.

### Diarrhoea

As with vomiting, children must be excluded from the setting for at least 48 hours after their last bout. Should a child have an episode of diarrhoea during a session, staff will closely monitor the child before making a decision on any action needed. A child is said to have diarrhoea after 3 loose stools within a short period of time. Staff will offer the child water and be aware of any change in/lack of appetite or stomach aches.

### Temperatures

If a child appears unwell or hot a member of staff will take their temperature. The normal body temperature is usually between 36°C and 37°C. A temperature is considered to be 38°C and above. If a child has a temperature the manager will be informed. The child's temperature will be closely monitored over a 15 minute period and the temperature retaken to confirm the results. If a temperature remains, the child will be isolated with one member of staff. Staff will try to reduce the temperature to make them feel more comfortable. They may offer small sips of water, remove bulky clothing and try to reduce the temperature slowly. If the temperature is very high, or if the child has a history of convulsions, and the child's parent has given consent, the Pre-School may administer a dose of paracetamol to help relieve discomfort. The parents will be asked to come and collect the child as soon as possible. The child can return to preschool the next day if the temperature has gone and they are feeling ok to do so.

### Head injuries

If a child bumps their head the first aider will apply a cold pack to the area for at least 10 minutes. During this time staff will check for any irregularities or changes in the child such as slurred speech, vomiting, drowsiness or dilated pupils. The child may be encouraged to take part in quieter activities after the cold compress until they feel ready to partake normally. Staff will monitor them for the rest of the day and if needed a parent will be called to inform them of the injury and suggest any medical advice required.

### HIV and AIDS/Hepatitis

The HIV virus like other viruses such as hepatitis A, B and C are spread through bodily fluids. Hygiene precautions for dealing with bodily fluids are the same for children and adults. Staff are required to use PPE when dealing with bodily fluid spills and these must be appropriately disposed of in a clinical waste bin and furniture/furnishings or toys will be disinfected or thrown away as appropriate.

### Headlice

Headlice is not an excludable condition, however if we were to have several cases at the same time, we may ask that all parents treat their child on the same date to try to eradicate an outbreak. On identifying a case of headlice we will phone the parents to inform them and ask them to treat their child and all family members if live lice are found.

### **Exclusion Periods for illness**

The preschool is required to observe the exclusion periods outlined in the UK Health Security Agencies document. This can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/exclusion-table>.

In addition to this where a child is prescribed antibiotics, they must stay at home for the first 24hrs of treatment. This is so that the treatment has some time to take effect, making the child feel better and ensuring they do not have a reaction to the medication. It may also reduce the risk of transmission to other children for some illnesses.

### **Long term illness**

Where a child has a known long-term illness, we work with the parents/carers to ensure that staff are fully aware of the child's individual needs. This may involve meetings with the parents, meetings with specialist nurses, staff training and individual risk assessments. Please also see Medication Policy.

### **Serious illness/injury**

Should a child have a serious illness or injury the Pre-School will contact the child's parents as soon as is reasonably practical. In the unlikely event that parents are not available, a senior member of staff will act in loco parentis and, if necessary, take the child to hospital or accompany them in an ambulance. When taking a child to hospital the staff member will take a mobile phone and a bag containing useful items for the child. Our accident and incident policy provides further detail on the recording of such events.

### **Infection Control**

Barnett Wood Pre-School ensures that the environment is cleaned thoroughly on a daily basis. Extra cleaning will be carried out as deemed necessary should there be an outbreak of infection.

If there are outbreaks of illness some activities such as sand and water play and the use of our snack bar may well be suspended or modified for the duration of any outbreak to avoid the risk of cross contamination. Advice will be sort from the UK Health Security Agency and the appropriate risk assessments put in place.

### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

PPE is available for staff to use at all times as necessary. Staff should ensure they are wearing this when dealing with any bodily fluids. These should then be disposed of by double bagging it in a nappy sack and placing in the staff toilet bin.

### **Reporting of Illnesses**

Barnett Wood Pre-School follows guidance from the UK Health Security Agency and will report any notifiable diseases as needed.

We have a statutory duty to inform OFSTED and the UK Health Security Agency of any outbreaks and we will take any advice and guidance as appropriate.

**Policy written July 2023**