

**Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: State here which EYFS Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement this document relates to.**

Providers must have and implement a policy, and procedures, to safeguard children.

## **North Hinksey Preschool and Childcare Clubs**

### **Coronavirus (Covid- 19) Policy from March 15th 2021 (updated 15/06/2021)**

#### **Policy statement**

North Hinksey Preschool and Childcare Clubs are fully open for Preschool children. We are following government guidelines for Early Years Settings:- [Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#) (updated 24/05/2021):

*“Early years registered nurseries, pre-schools, childminders, maintained nursery schools, nursery classes in schools, and other pre-reception provision on school sites should remain open to allow all children to attend full time or their usual hours.*

*The system of controls measures outlined in this guidance create an environment for children and staff where the risk of transmission of infection is substantially reduced. Settings therefore need to continue to implement these controls to the fullest extent possible.”*

#### **System of controls**

*“The ‘system of controls’ set out in this section provides a set of principles for infection control and if you follow this advice and maximise the use of these control measures, they will effectively minimise risks of viral transmission. We know that the predominant new variant of coronavirus (COVID-19) is more transmissible; however, PHE advice remains that the way to control this virus is with the system of controls, even with the current new variants. In this section where something is essential for public health reasons, as advised by Public Health England (PHE), we have said ‘must’. Where there is a legal requirement, we have made that clear. This guidance does not create any new legal obligations.”*

#### **System of controls: Summary**

##### **Prevention**

##### **You must always:**

- 1. Minimise contact with individuals who are required to self-isolate by ensuring they do not attend the setting*
- 2. Ensure face coverings are used in recommended circumstances*

3. *Ensure everyone is advised to clean their hands thoroughly and more often than usual*
4. *Ensure good respiratory hygiene for everyone by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach*
5. *Maintain enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents*
6. *Consider how to minimise contact across the setting and maintain social distancing wherever possible*
7. *Keep occupied spaces well ventilated*

**In specific circumstances:**

8. *Ensure individuals wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) where necessary*
9. *Promote and engage in asymptomatic testing, where available*

**Response to any infection**

***You must always:***

10. *Promote and engage with the NHS Test and Trace process*
11. *Manage and report confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the setting community*
12. *Contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice*

**Purpose of Policy**

- Protect all employees, parents, and children and anyone else connected to the preschool, from coming into contact with Coronavirus (Covid19)
- Maintain the minimum level of staff to continue to provide the welfare needs of children in our care.
- Prevent the spread of Coronavirus (Covid19).

**Childcare Clubs and partial Preschool closure**

- In line with guidelines, we are unable to provide any breakfast or after school club care at this time.
- We ask that Children **DO NOT** attend more than one setting, unless essential. Please can you let us know if they do so.

## **Monitoring**

- Preschool are closely monitoring and gathering information from the Department of Education, The Department of Health and the wider Government information, whilst liaising with North Hinksey School, ODST and Oxfordshire County Council.
- This policy will be reviewed and amended as necessary following further guidance from DfE, PHE or Government updates.

## **Procedures**

### **Staffing and cohorts**

- Children will be in small consistent groups, with consistent staff, unless staff become unwell, in which case we would need to introduce another staff member to the group.
- EYFS ratios will be maintained as a minimum (1:8 for 3- and 4-year-olds and 1:4 for 2-year-olds)
- Although we could now remove groups and become one bubble, we are going to maintain smaller groups, which does restrict flexibility of sessions.
- Staff that can should work from home where ever possible. (administration and training)
- Staff supervision will be, maintained and staff mental health and welfare is paramount when considering policy and risk assessment.
- Staff aim to socially distance from each other and definitely between cohort groups.
- Should there be a need to prioritise children to attend, the prioritisation would be: -
  1. Vulnerable Children (this may include funded 2-year-olds if recognised as vulnerable but not definitely) and Critical Workers children, of any age.
  2. 3- and 4-year-old funded children (starting school in the academic year)
  3. Younger age group children
- Should a bubble close we would not be charging fees to the children unable to attend.

### **Drop off and collection**

- Drop off and collection times will be staggered. Parents/ Carers should be prompt in drop off and collection. Managing lost of late arrivals is detrimental to the other children attending.
- Parents/ Carers should wear masks at collection and drop off.

- Only one Parent/ Carer, at drop off and children will need to leave the parent at the gate. (We recognise this could be difficult for new children and families, so please speak to us if you are concerned about this, on your settling visit). Government guidance now allows a parent to attend a settling visit as a last resort (wearing a mask and for up to one hour) This visit will take place in the garden (come rain or shine) and parents will be asked to avoid any contact with other children.
- We are continuing to use our own gate and the entrance behind preschool, away from the school. We ask parents/ Carers, to leave via the side gate to maintain a one-way system.
- If you *are* late (after 9.00) please use the preschool gate, next to the school gate so we can see you are there and you can notify us via intercom.
- We ask that Parents/ Carers, continue to social distance between adults. If parents need to speak to us about any concerns etc we ask that you e mail us and we will call you at a suitable time.
- We will not be able to accommodate storage of bikes, scooters, pushchairs etc. so you will need to take these away with you should you use them to come to preschool.

## Infection control

- Parents/ Carers are expected to adhere to the standard national advice updated 11th June 2021 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance> **If you feel you have not complied with this guidance and have been mixing please can you keep your children away from the setting until tested or for 10 full days since last contact made.**
- **If you are a contact of a positive case you are now advised by Public Health England, PHE, to have a PCR test on day 5 of your self-isolation, even with no symptoms.**
- We will have qualified Paediatric First Aid Staff on site at all times. All staff are Paediatric First Aid trained.
- We must ensure that all children, staff and other adults do NOT come into school if they have any coronavirus symptoms (high temperature, a new, continuous cough, or loss/change of sense of taste or smell) or have tested positive in the last 10 days.
- Families should notify setting if their child is unable to attend and we will explore the reason with them.
- Anyone who develops symptoms during the day will be sent home and will need to be tested. If a child shows symptoms during the day, they will be moved to a room where they can be isolated with appropriate adult supervision whilst they wait to be collected by their parent / carer.

- The adult waiting with the child will wear the appropriate PPE.
- All areas used will be cleaned thoroughly.
- All staff and children (including those under 5) are eligible for a PCR test if they have symptoms, or are a direct contact through Test and Trace.
- We acknowledge children receiving routine vaccinations may experience fever and ask parents to discuss this with us in this event.
- Staff now have access to twice weekly Lateral Flow testing (LFT) and parents of nursery children are now able to access LFT. See below. Our nearest site is Oxpens Road, Old post office site. You can just go and collect from here. Or you can access on site asymptomatic testing through the Kings centre. **N.B. LFT are not suitable for primary or Early Years children.**

### Collect test kits

You can collect 2 packs of home test kits at a local collection point. Each pack contains 7 tests.

Anyone 18 or over can collect.

Most collection points are open from 1.30pm to 7pm. You can check online if the location is open or busy before you go. You do not need to make an appointment.

Do not visit a collection point outside opening hours, as it may be used to test people with coronavirus symptoms outside these times. [Find your nearest home test kit collection point.](#)

- If you do test positive with a LFT you do need to then get a PCR test. If that is then negative you can resume your daily life and children can attend our setting.
- If children display symptoms, they must undergo a PCR test or self-isolate (with your household for a full 10 days) from start of symptoms. A LFT MUST NOT be used if you or your child has symptoms.

### Positive Tests for Coronavirus

- We will follow Government and Public Health England guidance. If a child or adult in the class bubble tests positive for Coronavirus, then we will have to close the bubble and everyone in that bubble would have to self-isolate for 10 days.
- We only close bubbles on positive test results, **not on unconfirmed** cases.
- We will not close bubbles if children have a family member who has a positive test result as only that child would need to go home to self-isolate, and there is no requirement for others in the bubble to self-isolate at that point.

- If other cases are detected within the cohort or wider setting, Public Health England's local health protection teams will conduct a rapid investigation and will advise us on actions to take.
- If you have tested positive within 90 days, you should not undertake asymptomatic testing.

### **Negative Tests for Coronavirus**

- If someone has a negative test result, (and they have not been "Track and Traced"), if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus, they can stop self-isolating. They could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu – in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better. Other members of their household can stop self-isolating.
- However, if they have been told to self-isolate following contact with a positive case, they still need to self-isolate for the full 10 days, **and are advised to have PCR test on day 5 of self isolation.**

### **NHS Test and Trace**

All families must be ready and willing to follow the below procedures:

- Book a test if they are displaying symptoms
- All children can be tested, including children under 5, but children aged 11 and under will need to be helped by their parents/carers if using a home testing kit
- Provide details of anyone they have been in close contact with if they were to test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or if asked by NHS Test and Trace
- Self-isolate if they have been in close contact with someone who develops coronavirus symptoms or someone who tests positive for coronavirus
- If you feel you do not want to get your child tested please allow 10 full days from the start of symptoms before they return to the setting.

### **Resources**

- The setting will be re-arranged to limit cross contamination.
- We will continue to be outside for periods of time, as much as possible, so children will need to wear suitable clothing- suggested long sleeve t shirts, fleece/ jumpers/ etc. Obviously according to the weather.
- The room windows are open for ventilation; however, we will keep an eye on how cold the children are and have the heating on, increase physical activity etc to keep warm.
- The number of resources has been reduced to enable effective cleaning routines
- We do still have some soft furnishings, dressing up etc but they are only used with one group of children and are washed regularly.

- Children do have access to messy play, water and sand, though utensils are washed between groups and items such as playdough are made fresh and kept within a group of children.
- The mitigation of the risk with the above is keeping within cohorts, regularly cleaning resources, using outside where ever possible, regular handwashing throughout sessions and always before meal times, upon arriving and when coming in from the garden. We want to be able to provide children with the usual experiences they would have to support their development and wellbeing.
- We do talk to the children about aspects of COVID 19 such as social distancing, enhanced hygiene, the virus etc but in appropriate terms. We feel the children have a good grasp of the situation.

### **Food, drinks and personal belongings**

- There will be no provision for hot lunches
- Please provide a healthy packed lunch, see guidance on our website.
- To make things easier we ask that you also provide a named water bottle
- We will still provide milk at snack time and simple snacks morning and afternoon. Please make sure you advise us of dietary requirements in your induction meeting.
- Please **label** all items brought to Preschool- lunch bags, water bottles, spare clothing, bags etc.
- You can leave a pair of wellies with us, if they are named, and a small number of changes of clothes.
- Toys and other personal belongings **are not permitted** to be brought into preschool.

### **General Hygiene and Social distancing**

- There are two groups of children: - The Preschool room, this is for the older children, aged rising 3-4 year olds ; The Hive, this is for the younger children, that will be with us for longer, aged 2-3 years.
- The two rooms have sperate staff, all of whom are in your Key Group.
- Masks will not be worn unless carrying out First Aid (guidelines then suggest Mask, Visor, gloves and apron).
- Gloves and aprons will be worn as usual for intimate hygiene support and food preparation.
- We **will not** be social distancing with such young children as recognised in the government guidance, there fore there is a high level of trust between staff and families required, with the expectation that all follow the government guidelines outside of the setting.

- Upon arrival all children will wash hands, under supervision for at least 20 seconds
- We will have regular handwashing throughout the day and staff will be using hand sanitiser also.
- We will cover mouths and noses when coughing and sneezing with either bent elbows or tissues and then wash hands again.
- We will clean all surfaces and resources, inside and out daily and throughout the day as required.
- 

## **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)**

- During the period the government have amended legislation to allow for temporary disapplying and modifying a number of requirements within EYFS, (Updated 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021)  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2/early-years-foundation-stage-coronavirus-disapplications>
- We will aim to use reasonable endeavours to deliver learning and development requirements as set out under EYFS (2020). Our priority will be to keep children safe and well cared for.
- From September we will be following the revised EYFS (2021)

## **Ofsted**

- Ofsted resumed inspections of Early Years Settings from 4th May 2021
- Safeguarding responsibilities of Ofsted have not changed and Ofsted inspections triggered by safeguarding concerns will continue as usual.
- Our Designated Safeguarding Lead is Ruth Vaughan [nhps.manager1@gmail.com](mailto:nhps.manager1@gmail.com) with deputies for Safeguarding being Linda Kitching, [norththinkseyccclubs@gmail.com](mailto:norththinkseyccclubs@gmail.com) Sharon Beadle, Ali Kennett, Karen Warmington. [Nhps.preschool@gmail.com](mailto:Nhps.preschool@gmail.com)
- All staff are Safeguarding trained.

## **Legal framework**

### *Primary legislation*

- Coronavirus Bill (19<sup>th</sup> March 2020) <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-01/0122/20122.pdf>
- Children Act (1989 s47)



- Protection of Children Act (1999)
- The Children Act (2004 s11)
- Children and Social Work Act 2017
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act (2006)
- Childcare Act (2006)
- Child Safeguarding Practice Review and Relevant Agency (England) Regulations 2018

### Further guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care-settings-including-the-use-of-personal-protective-equipment-ppe>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider-opening-of-schools-from-1-june/planning-guide-for-primary-schools>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings>

This policy was adopted by	North Hinksey Preschool and Childcare Clubs	<i>(name of provider)</i>
On	15/06/2021	<i>(date)</i>
Date to be reviewed	As necessary during Covid 19	<i>(date)</i>
Signed on behalf of the provider	<i>Ruth Vaughan</i>	
Name of signatory	<i>Ruth Vaughan</i>	
Role of signatory	<i>Setting Manager</i>	