

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.



Coronavirus (Covid- 19) Policy: - September 6th 2021

Policy statement

North Hinksey Preschool and Childcare Clubs are fully open for Preschool children. We are following government guidelines for Early Years Settings:- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/actions-for-early-years-and-childcare-providers-during-the-covid-19-pandemic>

(Updated 17/08/2021):

“Our priority is for you to deliver face-to-face, high-quality education and childcare to all children. The evidence is clear that being out of education and childcare causes significant harm to educational attainment, life chances, mental and physical health.”

To support our preschool community and our wider local community we ask that all families follow this policy.

Control Measures Summary

We will:

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone.
2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes, using standard products such as detergents.
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Prevention

We will:

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1. Minimise contact with individuals who are required to self-isolate by ensuring they do not attend the setting
2. Ensure everyone is advised to clean their hands thoroughly and more often than usual
3. Ensure good respiratory hygiene for everyone by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
4. Maintain enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents
5. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated
6. Continue with twice weekly asymptomatic testing (to be reviewed at the end of September)

In specific circumstances:

1. Ensure individuals wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) where necessary

Response to any infection

We will:

1. Follow any guidance on self-isolation: - <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>
2. 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).

Extended Day care

We are now able to operate this for Preschool children only on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, with all the same measures in place.

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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)
- We are now operating as one group in terms of not socially distancing between the two groups of staff/ children.
- Staff supervision will be, maintained and staff mental health and welfare is paramount when considering policy and risk assessment.
- 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 we close or need to restrict attendance we would not be charging fees to the children unable to attend.

Drop off and collection

- We now have one start and finish times and ask that you aim to be swift in your handovers. Please call or email if you have queries or worries as it holds up other parents getting to work etc.
- Only one Parent/ Carer, at drop off and children will need to leave the parent at the gate.
- 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.

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- 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. N.B: Managing late arrivals is detrimental to the other children attending.
- 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

- 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. Please follow: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>
- Families should notify setting if their child is unable to attend and we will explore the reason with them. If someone in your household has symptoms, they must take a PCR test. If it is positive all household members must also get a test. Please remain cautious and do not send your child to us if you are unsure.
- 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 will still be testing twice weekly for the time being.

Positive Tests for Coronavirus

- We will follow Government and Public Health England guidance. If a child or adult in our setting, tests positive for Coronavirus
- We will only close if we are instructed to by Public Health England, OR if we do not have enough staff to operate within ratios.

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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.
- However, if they have been told they have been in contact with a positive case, **they will be advised to have PCR test, though don't have to self-isolate whilst waiting for results.**

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. If you have been advised to Test your child and do not wish to, they will need to self-isolate for the 10 days.
- 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 and you are either not double vaccinated or over the age of 18.

Resources

- 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 mitigation of the risk is reduced through cleaning and using outside where ever possible, regular handwashing throughout sessions and always before
- meal times, upon arriving and when coming in from the garden.

Food, drinks and personal belongings

- There will be no provision for hot lunches

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- Please provide a healthy packed lunch, see guidance on our website. <https://www.northhinkseypreschool.org/data/documents/Lunches-what-to-include.pdf>
- Please provide a named water bottle with **only** water in it.
- 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.

Legal framework

Primary legislation

▪ Coronavirus Bill (19th 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/collections/early-years-and-childcare-coronavirus-covid-19>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

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

This policy was adopted by North Hinksey Preschool and Childcare Clubs (*name of provider*) On 05/09/2021 (*date*)

Date to be reviewed as necessary during Covid 19 (*date*)

Signed on behalf of the provider *Ruth Vaughan*

Role of signatory *Setting Manager*