

**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 January 5th 2021 (updated**

**03/01/2021)**

#### **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 30 Dec 2020):

*“Keeping children and staff safe is our utmost priority. This section of the guidance sets out the public health advice that early years settings must follow to minimise the risks of coronavirus (COVID-19) transmission. It also includes the process that settings should follow if anyone develops coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms while attending the setting. This guidance has been developed with advice from Public Health England (PHE).*

*The public health advice in this guidance makes up a PHE-endorsed ‘[system of controls](#)’, building on the hierarchy of protective measures that have been in use throughout coronavirus (COVID-19). When implemented in line with a revised risk assessment, these measures create an inherently safer environment for children and staff where the risk of transmission of infection is substantially reduced for children and staff.”*

*The ‘[system of controls](#)’ provides a set of principles that, when followed, will effectively minimise risks. All elements of the ‘[system of controls](#)’ are essential. All settings must cover them all, but the way different settings implement some of the requirements will differ based on their individual circumstances. Where something is essential for public health reasons, as advised by 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**

This is the set of actions early years settings must take. They are grouped into prevention and response to any infection.

## Prevention

- 1) Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID19) symptoms or who have someone in their household who does or have been advised by NHS test and trace to self-isolate, do not attend settings
- 2) Where recommended, the use of face coverings
- 3) Clean hands thoroughly and more often than usual
- 4) Ensure good respiratory hygiene 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) Minimise contact between groups of children where possible
- 7) Where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)
- 8) Keep occupied spaces well ventilated

Numbers 1, 3, 4, 5 and 8 must be in place in all settings all the time.

Numbers 2 and 6 must be properly considered, and settings must put in place measures that suit their particular circumstances.

Number 7 applies in all specific circumstances.

## Response to any infection

- 9) Engage with the NHS Test and Trace process
- 10) Manage and report to Ofsted and the PHE advice line confirmed cases, of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the setting community
- 11) Contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice

Numbers 9 to 11 must be followed in every case where they are relevant.

### **Local outbreak of COVID-19-*Contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice***

*If settings have 2 or more confirmed cases within 14 days, or an overall rise in sickness absence where coronavirus (COVID-19) is suspected, settings may have an outbreak, and should work with their local health protection team who will be able to advise if additional action is required.*

*In some cases, health protection teams may recommend that a larger number of other children self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure – perhaps the whole site or a group. If settings are implementing the controls from this list, addressing the risks they have identified and therefore reducing transmission risks, whole setting closure based on cases within the setting will not generally be necessary, and should not be considered except on the advice of health protection teams.*

## **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.

## **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 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.

## Drop off and collection

- Drop off and collection times will be staggered.
- Only one parent 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)
- We are continuing to use our own gate and the entrance behind preschool, away from the school. We ask parents 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 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 are expected to adhere to the standard national advice updated 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020 <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 days since last contact made.**
- 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 are eligible for a test.

### **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.

### **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 10 days.

### **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 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.

### **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 amount of changes of clothes.

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

- There are two groups of children: - The Preschool room, this is for the Older Children that will start school in September 2021; The Hive, this is for the younger children, that will be with us for longer.
- The two rooms have separate 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, therefore 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, from 24<sup>th</sup> April 2020. (Updated 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020)  
<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.

## Ofsted

- Ofsted are considering how and when they will resume Inspections.
- Safeguarding responsibilities of Ofsted have not changed and Ofsted inspections triggered by safeguarding concerns will continue.
- 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 *(name of*

Childcare Clubs *provider)*

On 03/01/2021 *(date)*

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

Signed on behalf of the provider

*Ruth Vaughan*

Name of signatory

*Ruth Vaughan*

Role of signatory

*Setting Manager*