**Mucky Pups Preschool**

**Un-well child policy and procedure**

**Aim**

*It is our aim at Mucky Pups that all children that attend are fit and well and able to be part of the rigours of the day, which requires socialising with other children and being part of a group setting. If a child is unwell it is in their best interest to be in a home environment with adult’s they know well rather than at nursery with their peers.*

*It is our aim that when children become unwell during the day that they are not left in our setting to be considerate of their well-being but also the health and well-being of the other children and staff at the setting.*

**Immunisations**

ALL children attending Mucky Pups should be up to date with their immunisations in accordance with the public health recommendations see the link below;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-complete-routine-immunisation-schedule>

**Fit to attend**

It is the parent/carer’s responsibility to ensure that their child is fit to attend nursery and take part in ALL activities that take part at the nursery and will not infect other children or staff in our care.

We ask that all children who are unwell are kept at home and treated before returning to our setting

<https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance_on_infection_control_in%20schools_poster.pdf>

In the interest of keeping children healthy and minimising infection we will implement the following procedures:

* If a child becomes ill during the day, their parent(s) will be contacted and asked to pick up their child as soon as possible. During this time the child will be cared for in a quiet, calm area with their key person, wherever possible

# We follow the guidance given to us by Public Health England;’ Guidance on Infection Control in Schools and other Child Care Settings’ and advice from our local Health Protection Unit on exclusion times for specific illnesses, e.g. sickness and diarrhoea, measles and chicken pox, to protect other children in the setting. (Please see ‘Guidance on infection control in schools and other childcare settings’ booklet for details; displayed in cloakroom)

* Should a child have an infectious disease, such as sickness and diarrhoea, they should not return to the setting until they have been clear **for at least 48 hours.**
* We notify Ofsted where we have any child or staff member with a notifiable disease such as food poisoning or acute meningitis.
* If a contagious infection is identified in the setting, 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
* If a child requires a course of antibiotics it is our policy to exclude children for the **first 48 hours** of the course (unless this is part of an ongoing care plan to treat individual medical conditions e.g. asthma and the child is not unwell)
* If a child has had Calpol or similar medication at home. This decision will be taken by the manager on duty to decide if the child is well enough to attend and this decision is non-negotiable.
* All parents are requested to regularly check their children’s hair for head lice. If a parent finds that their child has headlice we would be grateful if they could inform the setting so that other parents can be alerted to check their child’s hair. We also ask that parents treat their child’s hair before returning to the setting.

**Exclusion List**

* Antibiotics - First 2 days at home
* Chicken Pox - Seven days from appearance of rash, all spots scabbed over
* Conjunctivitis - Until eyes are not red or weeping, treatment given
* Covid-19 – 5 days exclusion then a return if no temperature and child is fit
* Gastro-enteritis, food poisoning - Until authorised
* Hand, foot and mouth - Until treated and spots have disappeared
* Headlice - Until appropriate treatment given. No live lice in hair
* Impetigo - Until lesions are crusted or healed
* Infective hepatitis - Seven days from onset of jaundice
* Injections - 24 hours after receiving an injection or drop
* Measles - Five days from appearance of rash and child well
* Mumps - Five days from onset of swollen glands
* Planter warts - No exclusion. Should be treated and covered
* Poliomyelitis - Until declared free from infection by district community physician
* Ringworm - Until cured/treatment given
* Rubella (German measles) - Five days from appearance of rash
* Scabies - After one treatment
* Scarlet fever and streptococcal - Five days after commencing antibiotics
* Temperature If sent home ill - must be off for 12 hours and not reliant on Calpol or similar medication upon return.
* Tuberculosis - Until declared free from infection by district community physician
* Unknown rashes - Medical advice should be sought
* Vomiting/Diarrhoea - 48 hours from last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting
* Whooping cough - Five days from commencing antibiotic treatment, 21 days from onset of paroxysmal cough

***Mucky Pups has the right to refuse admission to a child who is unwell.***

***This decision will be taken by the Manager or Deputy and is non-negotiable.***

Meningitis procedure

If a parent informs the setting that their child has meningitis, the Manager (or Deputy in Managers absence) will contact the Infection Control (IC) Nurse for their area and Ofsted. The IC Nurse will give guidance and support in each individual case. If parents do not inform the setting, we will be contacted directly by the IC Nurse and the appropriate support will be given. The setting also needs to ensure that it follows all guidance given and that the appropriate authority is notified.

Transporting children to hospital procedure

* If the sickness is severe, a designated member of staff should call for an ambulance immediately whilst still ensuring that the child continues to be comforted and there is adequate staff deployment to care for the remaining children. This may mean temporarily grouping the children together. DO NOT attempt to transport the sick child in your own vehicle.
* Whilst waiting for the ambulance, contact the parent and arrange to meet them at the hospital.
* The most appropriate member of staff (Ideally Manager or Deputy) must accompany the child and take with them registration forms, relevant medication sheets, medication and the child’s comforter.
* A member of the management team must also be informed immediately.
* Remain calm at all times. Children who witness an incident may well be affected by it and may need lots of reassurance.
* Staff may also require support following an incident.

Date policy adopted on: 1st September 2023 Date for review: 1st September 2024

Signed: J E Wills Position: Manager