



The Under 5's Project
St Marys & Woolwich Common Nurseries
St Mary's Church, Greenlaw Street
Woolwich, SE18 5AR
Charity No: 1026486

Sickness & medication policy

The aim of this policy is to ensure the well-being of all children, staff and adults.

Children who are unwell cannot come into the nursery, or must be collected from the nursery earlier than usual, this will be decided by the Nursery Manager, Deputy Manager with guidance from the room leader.

Whilst we appreciate that it can be a difficult time for working parents, we have to take into consideration the health and wellbeing of all of the children and staff who attend the nursery.

The Public health agency issues guidance to cover many childhood illnesses which we must adhere to, this can be found in the '**Infection Control Table**' this table details exclusion periods for common childhood illnesses and forms part of the sickness policy. You can access this guidance using the link, www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/2022-10/A2%20Schools%20poster%20Oct%202022%20Final.pdf, your child's nursery will also have a copy of this table on display

Please note that it is common for young children to take time to build a resistance to infection/illness. Once children have built a resistance, they generally have a stronger immune system.

Medicine Administration

The following is a guide, however, please bear in mind that the final decision regarding the administration of all medicines is the responsibility of the Management team. Except for Calpol (paracetamol) and Piriton, only medicine prescribed by your child's doctor will be administered by senior staff in the nursery where possible. This will be administered according to the instructions on the label. All medicine is stored in a medical cabinet or the fridge and away from the children. Please note that trained members of staff are authorised to administer emergency medication. If a syringe is supplied with a child's medication the syringe must be used to administer the medicine. The nursery will arrange appropriate training for staff where a child has a medical need that requires it, i.e., Epi pen training.

Please note that prescribed medicines will not be administered for longer than the prescription label states. Parents/guardians must complete a medication consent form before the nursery can administer any medicine. Details of all medicine administered is recorded stating the name of the medicine given, the time, dosage and the adult who gave the medicine. The medicine form must be dated and signed by the member of staff who

administered the medicine, the member of staff who witnessed the procedure and the parent/guardian when they collect their child.

Antibiotics – each time a child has a new prescription for antibiotics they will not be able to attend the nursery until 24 hours after the first dose. This is in case there is a reaction to the medicine. Please note that in the case of antibiotic eye/ear drops or cream prescribed for the treatment of conjunctivitis the first dose must be administered at home. Children may then attend the nursery as usual. In addition, where antibiotic cream is prescribed for the treatment of skin conditions the first dose must be applied at home. Children may then attend the nursery as usual providing that the exclusion period for the condition has been observed where necessary – please see the '**Infection Control Table**' for details. **Prescribed medicines must be clearly labelled with the Child's name and expiry date and in the original container**

Diarrhoea & Vomiting - in line with the **Infection Control Table** which forms part of this policy, children cannot come into the nursery within 48 hours of having an episode of either diarrhoea or vomiting. This includes days when your child is not due in nursery and therefore if they have had either diarrhoea or vomiting when they are at home, In addition, if your child has been vomiting, they also need to be able to keep food down before returning.

Calpol (Paracetamol) –The nursery can administer Calpol for mild pain relief. The amount of Calpol administered will relate to the amount stated on the packaging and your child's age.

Typically, if your child has a temperature, they should be home for 24 hours, but we understand this isn't always possible, we know Calpol helps keep a fever down, but fever is often a sign of an underlying infection. If your child attends nursery and staff have been asked to administer Calpol, they will wait four hours before giving it to your child. Once we have administered the first nursery dose. If after 20-30 minutes your child's temperature has not reduced or they appear visibly unwell i.e., the child isn't themselves, cuddly, not engaging, sleeping, complaining of pain. We will contact the parents to collect them. If during any point the staff feel your child is getting worse after administering Calpol we will contact you to collect them.

Please note, as per the label on the bottle, Calpol must not be given to a child for more than 3 days. Therefore, if a child has been given Calpol on 3 consecutive days they will not be able to return to the nursery until they have been seen by a GP. The 3 days include any days when a child is not at the nursery.

CALPOL ADMINISTRATION A child who has a temperature of 39°C or above will need to be collected immediately.

Piriton syrup - Piriton syrup may be administered in an emergency whilst your child is in the nursery. Upon joining the nursery parents will be asked to sign a form to give permission to administer Piriton syrup for children aged 1 year and above. Where possible, parents will be contacted to give verbal permission prior to the medicine being given. Once Piriton has been administered in the nursery, staff will monitor the child and will contact parents accordingly. Please note that if Piriton has been prescribed by your child's GP, this must be reviewed on a regular basis.

Creams/Lotions – creams or lotions either prescribed or purchased from a chemist must be discussed when your child joins the nursery. The container will be labelled with your child's name and must be unopened. If there is any change in the cream to be given the updated medical information will be recorded on your child's records.

Medicine (both prescription and non-prescription) must only be administered to a child where written permission for that medicine has been obtained from the child's parent. This includes creams and lotions, and parents will be required to complete a medication form. **We will inform you when we have applied non prescriptions creams either verbally, by txt message or in a contact book.**

Reviewed 16/11/2022 Executive Manager & Manager

Inhalers - where there is a prescription for an inhaler, one must be kept on the premises even if it is for short term use only.

Long term medication – Where children have an ongoing medical condition and require long term medication, a medication consent form only needs to be completed every few months as follow on sheets can be used. Parents will be required to sign it each day. Medication such as an inhaler or an Epi pen will need to remain on the nursery premises. Please make sure you provide new medication before the expiry date is reached as we may be unable to accept your child if their current medication has expired and it would be needed for their safety in an emergency.

Teething – with the exception of herbal teething remedies such as Ashtons or Nelsons powders which contain no drugs all teething gels must be prescribed. Alternatively, a letter from your child's doctor stating that it is suitable for your child to be given the gel is acceptable.

Coronavirus - anyone who begins to display coronavirus symptoms (high temperature, new, continuous cough, loss or change to your sense of smell or taste) while in the nursery should be sent home. Current guidance is that anyone who tests positive for coronavirus isolates. ***(Please check government website for current guidance)***

Seizures and convulsions – to safeguard the health and wellbeing of children who have had a seizure or convulsion, either at or outside of the nursery, children will need to be assessed medically and remain at home for 24 hours following the seizure or convulsion. Please inform the nursery if your child experiences a seizure or nursery at home.

Failure to collect - where a parent/guardian has been contacted and asked to collect their child on medical grounds we expect this to be within one hour of the initial contact from the nursery. Where parents/guardians are unable to collect within this time or if parents/guardians have not returned the nursery's call regarding the arrangements for the collection of their child this will be treated as failure to collect, and we reserve the right to telephone the emergency contacts and request that they collect the child.

We hope this policy is helpful in giving you guidance of what to do when your child is unwell.

