



# Infection, Prevention and Control Policy

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Lymestone Preschool is committed to providing a safe, healthy and hygienic environment for all children, staff, volunteers and visitors. Effective infection prevention and control measures help reduce the spread of illness and support children's health, wellbeing and attendance.

The preschool follows current guidance from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework and relevant public health advice.

## **Aims**

- Minimise the risk of infection transmission.
- Promote good hygiene practices.
- Provide a clean and safe environment.
- Protect children, staff and visitors from preventable illness.
- Respond appropriately to infectious diseases and outbreaks.
- Meet statutory requirements relating to health, safety and welfare.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

The Preschool Committee and Manager are responsible for ensuring that appropriate infection prevention procedures are in place and regularly reviewed.

All staff are responsible for:

- Following this policy and associated procedures.
- Maintaining high standards of personal hygiene.
- Reporting concerns regarding illness or infection.
- Following cleaning and disinfection procedures.
- Supporting children to develop good hygiene habits.
- Following exclusion guidance when unwell.

## **Hand Hygiene**

Effective handwashing is one of the most important ways to prevent the spread of infection. Children and staff will be encouraged and supported to wash their hands:

- On arrival at the setting.
- Before eating or handling food.
- After using the toilet.
- After nappy changing or supporting toileting.
- After outdoor play.
- After contact with bodily fluids.
- After handling animals.

- After coughing, sneezing or blowing their nose.
- Whenever hands are visibly dirty.

Liquid soap and one use washable microfibre towels are provided throughout the setting.

### **Respiratory Hygiene**

Children and staff will be encouraged to:

- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue where possible.
- Dispose of used tissues immediately and appropriately.
- Wash hands after coughing, sneezing or nose wiping.
- Follow the principle of “Catch it, Bin it, Kill it”.

### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

Disposable gloves and aprons will be worn when:

- Changing nappies.
- Supporting intimate care.
- Cleaning bodily fluids.
- Administering first aid where bodily fluids are present.
- Handling contaminated materials.

PPE will be disposed of safely after use and hands washed thoroughly.

### **Nappy Changing and Toileting**

The preschool has a designated changing area.

Staff will:

- Follow hygienic nappy changing procedures.
- Wear appropriate PPE.
- Clean and disinfect changing areas after use.
- Dispose of waste appropriately.
- Promote children’s independence with toileting where appropriate.
- Support toilet training in partnership with parents.

### **Cleaning and Environmental Hygiene**

The preschool staff undertake regular cleaning throughout the day and a daily end-of-day cleaning. Additional cleaning will be rotated when required.

Cleaning products include:

- Milton sterilising products for toys and resources.
- Antibacterial cleaning products for surfaces.
- Appropriate toilet and bathroom cleaning products.
- Suitable floor cleaning products.

Frequently touched surfaces, including tables, door handles, light switches and toilet facilities, are cleaned regularly throughout the day.

Toys and resources are cleaned on a rotational basis and more frequently during periods of illness or outbreak.

### **Food Hygiene**

Food preparation is limited to breakfast and snack provision. Staff involved in food preparation follow the Food Safety and Nutritional Policy and:

- Maintain good personal hygiene.
- Follow food safety procedures.
- Clean food preparation areas appropriately.
- Use clean utensils and equipment.
- Monitor food storage requirements.

### **Laundry**

Laundry generated within the setting will be handled safely.

Contaminated items will be:

- Handled using appropriate PPE.
- Washed separately where necessary.
- Laundered at an appropriate temperature.
- Stored safely before and after washing.

### **Management of Blood and Bodily Fluids**

Blood, vomit, urine and faeces will be cleaned immediately using appropriate PPE and cleaning materials. The preschool maintains a designated bodily fluids clean-up kit located in the disabled bathroom.

Staff will:

- Restrict access to affected areas.
- Wear appropriate PPE.
- Clean and disinfect contaminated surfaces.
- Dispose of contaminated waste through appropriate a hygiene waste company.

Where clothing becomes soiled, salvageable items will be double-bagged and returned home to parents or carers for laundering.

### **Illness and Exclusion**

The preschool follows current UKHSA guidance regarding infectious diseases and exclusion periods. Children and staff who are unwell may be required to remain at home to reduce the spread of infection.

This includes:

- Diarrhoea and vomiting: exclusion until 48 hours after the last episode.
- Fever: exclusion until the individual has been fever-free for at least 24 hours and is well enough to return.

- Other infectious illnesses: exclusion periods as advised by UKHSA.

The preschool reserves the right to request collection of a child who becomes unwell during the day.

### **Medication**

Medication will be administered in accordance with the Preschool Medication Policy.

Prescribed medication will only be administered where required after completion of a consent form, and medication administration requirements information being provided.

Emergency administration of pain or fever relief medication may be considered in accordance with parental consent and the Medication Policy.

### **Outbreak Management**

The preschool will take additional measures where an outbreak or increased incidence of infectious illness occurs.

Measures may include:

- Enhanced cleaning and disinfection.
- Increased hand hygiene practices.
- Temporary removal of shared resources where appropriate.
- Communication with parents and carers.
- Following advice from UKHSA or other relevant public health authorities.

Where required, the preschool will notify relevant agencies and cooperate fully with public health investigations.

### **Visitors and Contractors**

All visitors and contractors must sign in upon arrival.

Visitors are expected to:

- Follow infection prevention procedures.
- Practise good hand hygiene.
- Avoid attending when experiencing symptoms of infectious illness.

### **Staff Health**

Staff have a responsibility to protect the health of children and colleagues.

Staff should:

- Report infectious illnesses promptly.
- Follow exclusion guidance.
- Maintain high standards of personal hygiene.
- Seek medical advice where appropriate.

The same exclusion guidance generally applies to both staff and children.

### **Training**

Staff will receive appropriate information, instruction and training relating to:

- Infection prevention and control.

- Hand hygiene.
- Food hygiene.
- Allergy awareness.
- Cleaning procedures.
- Management of bodily fluids.
- First aid procedures.

*This policy was approved by Lympstone Preschool Committee, and will be reviewed annually, or sooner if legislation, guidance or operational requirements change.*

Reviewed: 01/06/2026