

**Covid 19**

**Policy statement**

We acknowledge that extraordinary measures have to be put in place to prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) and that whilst all of our settings remain safe for children, we must protect the NHS and save lives. We will work with our local authority to ensure sufficient childcare for all children and remain Alert.

The manager will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff ratio numbers will be appropriate in accordance with the EYFS Statutory Framework. We will refer to the guidance for education and childcare settings on how to implement social distancing and continue to follow the advice from Public Health England, to limit the risk of spread of Covid-19 as well as Wiltshire Council COVID-19 Guidance and Advice for opening of educational settings 19 May.

**Procedures**

*We follow these procedures to ensure our settings are safe during Covid-19.*

* Staff are aware that children are likely to become infected with coronavirus at roughly the same rate as adults, but the infection is usually mild. The most common symptoms of coronavirus are a new, continuous cough, a high temperature (over 37.8 degrees) and a loss of smell and/or taste.
* To help ensure that the risk of virus spread for both staff and children is as low as possible, we ensure that no parents or visitors enter the setting and that all children are to be greeted at the front door.
* Parents will be required to stagger the arrival and departure times of their children in the setting.
* Parents and visitors will be required to follow the 2 metre social distancing rules when dropping off or collecting their children by standing on the markers provided and waiting to be invited in.
* We ensure class sizes reflect the numbers of teaching staff available and are kept in line with the Government document ‘Action for Early Years and Childcare providers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak’ (2/7/20) and to support social distancing.
* The same staff member will be assigned to each of the groups. As far as possible, these stay the same during the day and subsequent days. This will ensure that groups of children do not mix.
* Staff and children wash their hands more often - with soap and water for at least 20 seconds when they arrive at nursery, at intermittent times throughout the day, when blowing nose, sneezing or coughing, eating or handling food.
* Handwashing stations will be in situ in both the indoor and outdoor areas to increase hygiene measures.
* Staff and children are told to avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth.
* Staff and children cover their cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in a bin and wash their hands.
* Scientific advice indicates that educational staff do not require Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). We will remain keeping to our usual practice when changing children’s nappies and preparing food.
* Coronavirus risk assessments will be completed for all areas within the setting for example: toileting, food preparation, outdoors, classrooms, arrival and departure etc which we be kept in their health and safety file with all other forms.
* Vigorous cleaning procedures are followed at a minimum of 4 times a day and will include cleaning door handles, toilet flushes etc. Ensure that all clothes, gloves and aprons are disposed of correctly and in accordance with the Public Health England document ‘COVID-19: cleaning in non-healthcare settings’. (updated 15th May 2020).
* Settings will carry out a full deep clean of all areas at the end of each day.
* All data of children in attendance is completed via email from our local authority and sent back before 4pm daily. This is to ensure that all children who are classed as vulnerable are kept in close contact with either the setting or their social worker.
* A daily register/record of which children and staff have been in specific rooms/groups and any close contact that takes place between staff and children in different rooms/groups.
* Regular contact is made by Managers and senior staff to all families to ensure welfare and support is offered where applicable.
* Daily tasks, home learning packs and extensions of learning outcomes from eylog/tapestry observations will be provided during the lockdown for **all** children on roll.

**Safeguarding**

* Due to children and families being absent for longer periods of time due to the Covid 19 lockdown, safeguarding continues to be a priority for all of our nursery settings**.**
* To ensure setting staff have access to specialist advice and support about safeguarding, the following details continue to apply as the setting reopens to an increased number of children.
* Where a trained DSL (or deputy) is not on site the following arrangements for a trained DSL will be on hand to provide advice remotely.

**IN THE ABSENCE OF OUR DSL / DDSL WE WILL CONTACT:**

**Name: Setting: Contact Number:**

* Staff will maintain up to date training via e-learning through SVPP and Noodle Now, as face to face training is not currently available until September.

*Reporting a concern*

* We recognise that staff and volunteers may identify new safeguarding concerns about individual children as they see them in person, post partial nursery closure. Where staff have a concern about a child, they will continue to follow the process outlined in South Hills Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

*DOFA Services due to Covid19*

* From **June 1st** all consultations and referrals to the DOFA MUST be made in writing and emailed to: dofaservice@wiltshire.gov.uk along with a name and contact telephone number. A referral form will be forwarded for completion.
* The telephone number for the DOFA Service is now 0300 4560108

*What to do if someone develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) whilst at the setting*

* If someone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough, a high temperature or/and a loss of sense of smell in the setting, they will be sent home and advised to follow the staying at home guidance.
* Any staff member supporting the unwell child will immediately wear Personal Protective Equipment provided by the setting. This will include face shield/plastic visor (one supplied per adult which cannot be shared and will be disinfected in-between usage), face mask, apron and gloves. The PPE will be double bagged and disposed of in the outdoor central waste bin. Staff will wash their hands for the recommended 20 seconds.
* If a child is awaiting collection, they will be moved, where possible, to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door, and with a familiar and appropriate adult supervising. Ideally, a window should be opened for ventilation. If it is not possible to isolate them, we will move them to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other children.
* If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they should use a separate bathroom if possible. The bathroom should be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else.
* In an emergency, call 999 if they are seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk.
* Staff should wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell. Staff must wear full PPE equipment when caring for a symptomatic child.
* The area will be cleaned with normal household disinfectant after someone with symptoms has left which will reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people.
* If a member of staff has helped a child who was taken unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves or are contacted by NHS Track and Trace.
* Those displaying symptoms must contact their GP to access a coronavirus test. An advice letter outlining action to be taken will be given to the parent/ practitioner.
* In the event of the results being positive, they should follow the ‘Stay at Home’ guidance and must self- isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptom. The rest of child’s family must isolate for 14 days.
* In the event of a positive case in the setting, the manager must contact the local health protection team. The local health protection team will carry out a rapid risk assessment to confirm who has been in close contact with that person during the period they were infectious and ensure that they are asked to self-isolate.
* Based on the advice from the health protection team, settings should send home those people who have been in close contact with that person who was infectious.
* The health protection team will give definitive advice on who must be sent home and further action to be taken. The family members of these people do not need to self- isolate unless they display symptoms.
* Coronavirus help line: (0300) 3038162

Shielding

* From 1st August 2020, shielding has been paused in England. Employees who have stopped shielding may be able to return to the workplace. A risk assessment will ensure that South Hills will put extra measures in place to keep the person safe in the workplace.

**Legal Framework**

* <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>
* <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876220/COVID19_Guidance_Education.pdf>
* <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

Date: MAY 2020 (revised 5/8/20) Date to be reviewed: Ongoing

Signed by: Position: Manager