

# Covid 19 Policy

## Statement of Intent

Clopton Nursery Trust intend to use this policy to provide precautionary measures to minimise transmission risks of disease in the setting during the Covid 19 pandemic.

## Aim of Policy

This Policy defines and assists the operating arrangements in place within Clopton Nursery Trust that assures compliance to the Government and leading bodies requirements with relation to the outbreak of Covid19. This information builds upon our current procedures for areas such as Safeguarding, Child Protection and Equality and Diversity, however new practices may emerge as the situation continues. The policy and considerations may evolve and be built upon as the situation deepens and new precautionary measures have been introduced and practices have been reflected upon.

## Method

As early years providers we ensure to offer a continuum of very high standards of practice of childcare and education. The fundamental principles to be outlined in this policy are set out to ensure physical distancing is enabled and implement good hygiene practices as well as avoiding coming into contact with infected children and adults or anyone displaying symptoms. It states the protective measures put in place for children, parents and staff as best as possible to ensure the risk of transmission is reduced. We will continue to follow our other policies as long as they do not conflict with this policy and be guided by the EYFS as best as we can. The main areas we will be considering are:

- Minimising contact with individuals who are unwell
- Maintaining personal and respiratory hygiene (handwashing, catch it, kill it, bin it)
- Ensuring cleanliness of the environment (especially frequently touched surfaces)
- Minimising general contact and mixing (creating bubbles and limiting numbers)
- The use of Protective and Personal Equipment (PPE)
- Testing

## Children

### *Attendance*

- Only children who are symptom free or have completed the required isolation period should attend the setting.
- In line with the government guidance we are limiting the number of children and staff on site and creating bubbles. We will offer sessions to the priority groups set out in the guidance and only those children can attend until further notice.
- Extremely vulnerable children should continue under government advice (to shield).
- Families who attend at least two settings should choose only one for the remainder of the term to ensure their 'bubble' remains small.
- If a child is refusing to come into nursery, we will do our best to reassure them. If children refuse to enter and cannot be persuaded into nursery, they will need to be taken home.

### *Physical Distancing/grouping*

- Children are organised into small groups and given designated rooms within the setting, this will also involve the outdoor area. Wherever possible these small groups

or 'bubbles' should not mix during the day as best as possible. This is to minimise contact with others and mixing.

- Children in small groups should have the same staff team caring for them wherever possible to limit the amount of people coming into contact with each other.
- Smaller amounts of children in the whole setting may be advised or preferable. As we usually run to capacity most days this could be achieved by, but not limited to:
  - A temporary cap on the amount of children in the setting at anyone time.
  - Temporarily limiting funded hours to only 15 hours per child, ensuring all children have access to some nursery time.
  - Changing children's hours to all mornings or all afternoons or 2 and a half days.
  - Only allowing the older children or those moving to Primary school to attend.
  - Grouping children to certain days, such as in groups of children moving to next school, this would help with transitions.
  - Prioritising children such as those who are vulnerable, those with special educational needs, those from households where both parents work (or work full time)
- Care routines including provision of meals, nappy changing and toileting should be within the space allocated to each 'bubble' wherever possible.
- The use of communal internal spaces should be restricted as much as possible and outdoor spaces should be utilised as much as possible and used by 'bubbles' in different areas during the day.
- Sunscreen should be applied by the parents / carers before the child arrives at the nursery. T shirts covering shoulders and leggings would be preferable to minimise how much top up of sunscreen the nursery staff will do.

#### *Wellbeing and education*

- Children should be supported in age appropriate ways to understand the steps they can take to keep themselves safe including regular hand washing, coughing into an elbow, using a tissue and adopting a catch it, kill it, bin it regime.
- Children should be supported to understand the changes and challenges they may be encountering as a result of Covid-19 and staff need to ensure they are aware of children's attachments and their need for emotional support at this time.
- EYFS framework will continue to be delivered through play and adult led activities.
- Snack times may be discontinued but children can ask for drinks throughout the day if they are thirsty, staff will monitor this. Parents will be asked to ensure their child has had breakfast or lunch and a drink before they arrive.

#### **Workforce**

##### *Attendance*

- Staff should only attend nursery if they are symptom free, have completed the required isolation period or achieved a negative test result. All staff and their household are eligible for testing if they display symptoms.
- Consideration should be given to limiting the number of staff in the nursery at any one time to only those required to care for the expected occupancy levels on any given day
- Staff hours, days they work and length of day may change in order to meet childcare demands and considerations within this policy.

### *Physical distancing/ grouping /safety*

- Management will complete a risk assessment before opening to address any risks from the virus, ensure sensible measures are in place to control risks.
- Staff to be informed of measures in place and sign a disclaimer to state they have read and understood the nursery policies and procedures.
- Wherever possible staff should remain with the small group of children, the 'bubble' of children who they are allocated to and not come into contact with other groups.
- Emergency revisions to the EYFS may have been implemented which provides some flexibility on ratios and qualifications to make this feasible.
- Staff have been advised by the government not to wear PPE such as facemasks during their day, but should continue to wear PPE at the usual times such as intimate care and wear disposable gloves and apron if completing one to one care and if supporting an ill child a face mask and visor should also be worn if a 2 metre distance cannot be maintained.
- After dealing with an ill child who displayed symptoms the staff member should continue to wear PPE and clean the affected area with disinfectant.
- All PPE should be removed and disposed of following current government guidelines, the staff member should wash their hands for at least 20 seconds.
- The staff member who supported the unwell child does not need to go home unless they are developing symptoms themselves.
- Staff may be required to be in charge of specific rooms or areas including the outdoors to minimise their contact with surfaces etc. This includes potentially working from one particular table if table top toys are available. Staff will be responsible to ensure appropriate cleaning takes place and enough ventilation is in the room such as opening windows. If doors are open ensure the safety of the children is maintained.
- Staff members should avoid physical contact with each other including handshakes, hugs etc.
- Staff to wear fresh, clean clothes for each session.
- Advise staff to remove their work clothes before they enter their home and take a shower immediately to remove any germs they may have picked up.
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### *Training*

- Where possible, meetings and training sessions should be conducted through virtual conferencing.
- All staff members must receive appropriate instruction and training in infection control and the standard operating procedure and risk assessments within which they will be operating.
- Online training may be available to allow their training levels to be maintained if appropriate.

### **Parents**

#### *Physical distancing*

- Only parents who are symptom free and or have completed the required isolation periods will be able to drop off or collect their child.
- Aim to minimise the 'pinch points' during the day and limit drop off and pick up to one parent per family.
- Arrange drop off and pick up at the nursery garden gate to avoid parents entering the nursery unnecessarily.

- When parents are waiting to drop off or collect their child, physical distancing should be maintained in a safe area sticking to government social distancing policies.
- Consider allowing some parents to enter the nursery for the purpose of a settling in session if not doing so would cause a child distress, this would take place in just the outdoor environment.
- If the child is too distressed they must be taken home.

#### *Communications*

- Parents should receive clear communication regarding the role they play in the safe operating procedure and all measures being taken to ensure the safety of their children and themselves.
- Parents should inform nursery of their circumstances and if they plan to keep their child away.

#### **Visitors**

- Attendance to the setting should be restricted to only children and staff as far as practically possible and visitors should not be permitted to the nursery unless essential (e.g. essential building maintenance).
- Where essential visits are required these should be made outside of the usual nursery operational hours where possible.
- As far as possible parents and carers should not enter the premises.

#### **Travel**

- Wherever possible staff and parents should travel to nursery alone, using their own transport or if possible walk.
- If public transport is necessary, current guidance on the use of public transport must be followed.
- Parents should be encouraged to ensure they do not leave travel accessories including buggies, car seats, scooters in the setting premises or grounds.
- There will be no outings from the nursery into the local community to ensure mixing with members of the general public does not happen.

#### **Food and drink**

- Staff who prepare and handle food receive appropriate training and understand - and comply with - food safety and hygiene regulations.
- Children are supported to ensure careful handwashing
- All food and drink is stored appropriately and cut for children on request rather than offering open bowls for them to self-select. While we recognise this reduces their independence, we need to reduce risk where possible.
- Staff will pour drinks and ensure cups and plates are washed at a high temperature between uses.
- Snack time is appropriately supervised, and children do not walk about with food and drinks.
- Fresh drinking water is always available to the children and will be provided by nursery. Staff will carry their own water bottles and/or have access to drinks to ensure they model drinking regularly.
- Lunches will be packed lunches and will be in disposable containers, this means no boxes or water bottles.
- At lunch time, children and staff will be spread out appropriately.

## **Hygiene and Health & Safety**

We are following the guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings> and regularly seek information from the Public Health England to ensure that we keep up to date with the latest recommendations.

### *Hand Washing*

- All children and staff must wash their hands upon arrival at the nursery and before they leave for at least 20 seconds.
- Children and staff members should be encouraged to wash their hands frequently, this includes before and after eating food, after visiting the toilet or playing outdoors, after sneezing, blowing their nose or coughing into their hand and dealing with unwell people.
- Bodily fluid spills should follow the correct procedures as normal.

### *Cleaning*

- An enhanced cleaning schedule must be implemented that includes furniture, surfaces and children's toys and equipment and all staff are responsible in their area of work.
- Communal area, touch points and hand washing facilities must be cleaned and sanitised regularly and cleaned thoroughly every night.
- A deep clean will be needed after a child has become ill in the area they were waiting.

### *Waste disposal*

- All waste must be disposed of in a hygienic and safe manner following government guidelines.
- Tissues must be immediately disposed of and placed in a bin with a bag.
- Bodily fluids must be double bagged and disposed of in a bin with a bag and lid.

### *Laundry*

- All items within the setting requiring laundering must be washed in line with NHS laundry guidelines.
- Items such as towels, flannels and bedding must not be shared by children.

### *Risk assessment*

- The setting and all activity should be risk assessed before opening or going ahead to address the risks from the virus and due consideration given to any adaptations to usual practice. Sensible measures should be put in place and policies and procedures followed.
- It is expected that would include, but not be limited, to the suspension of learning experiences involving materials which are not easily washable such as sand and the suspension of the sharing of food and utensils.
- Cut down on the available resources out in the nursery.
- Remove anything which cannot be easily wiped down or washed at the end of the day.
- Play food, play cutlery and crockery etc. should be removed or anything else which may be 'mouthed' by many children.
- Baking, food play and finger painting should be avoided.
- Play dough can still be used but must be made and disposed of that day

### *PPE*

- Government guidance is that PPE is not required for general use in early years settings to protect against COVID- 19 transmission.
- PPE should continue to be worn and disposed of as normal for nappy changing, one to one care and the administration of first aid.
- If a child shows symptoms, staff should wear a face mask, visor, disposable gloves and apron if a 2-meter distance cannot be maintained at all times. PPE should be disposed of following government guidelines

### *Premises Building*

- Where premises have been temporarily closed during the lockdown period or where they may need to temporarily close during future lockdowns appropriate Health & Safety checks should be conducted prior to reopening including legionnaires checks.
- Keep windows open where possible to ensure good levels of ventilation. If doors are opened ensure the children safety is maintained with locked gates.

### *Resources*

- Children should not be permitted to bring items from home into the setting unless absolutely essential for their wellbeing. Anything that is brought in from home should remain in the child's bag on their peg.
- All resources required for play and learning experiences of children should be regularly washed and/or sterilized. Any resources which are difficult to clean should be removed will be either removed or each bubble will have their own set of resources that can't be cleaned i.e. paper, pencil, books.
- Equipment used by staff such as stationary, tablets etc. should be allocated to individual bubbles and where possible and cleaned regularly.

### *Supplies Procurement & monitoring*

- The nursery should ensure an adequate supply of essential supplies and contingency plans such as additional suppliers are in place to minimise the impact of any shortages of supplies.
- The nursery will not be able to operate without essential supplies required for ensuring infection control.
- A monitoring system for the usage of PPE is essential to ensure that a supply of stock is available to all who require it as and when required to meet the operational needs of the setting. When stocks are low, other options may be considered, such as the use of washable tabards and facemasks. These items will be washed at a high temperature in accordance with relevant guidelines and separate to any other nursery washing.

### **Responding to a suspected case**

- In the event of a child developing suspected coronavirus symptoms whilst attending the setting, they should be collected as soon as possible and isolate at home in line with the current NHS guidance.
- Whilst waiting for the child to be collected they should be isolated from others in the room's snug.
- The staff member responsible for the child during this time should be a staff member from their 'bubble'. PPE (apron, gloves, visor and face mask are to be worn by this staff member.
- The area should be thoroughly cleaned, immediately if the area cannot be left unvisited, and if the area can be left unvisited then cleaned after 72 hours.

- The person responsible for cleaning ideally should be the person dealing with the unwell child and should continue to wear their PPE. This should then be disposed of according to current government guidelines.
- In the event of a staff member developing suspected coronavirus symptoms whilst working at the nursery, they should return home immediately and isolate at home in line with the NHS guidance. They should also follow current testing advice for themselves and their household.

### **Self-Isolating**

Any families self-isolating must report this to Clopton Nursery Trust to be recorded. The current advice is to self-isolate for a period of 7 days if you experience any of the symptoms above. Other household members should isolate for 14 days. Individual families should seek advice from the NHS website and contact 111 or the direct helpline on 0800 046 8687

Email: [DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk](mailto:DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk)

Staff should report to their line manager before 7.30 am on the day they are to work or sooner if able to enable managers to plan and remain open.

### **Keeping records**

We will keep a confidential record of any staff members and children who are in self-isolation.

We will not need to include any personal details, just the date of isolation and the date they are due to return to setting. This will help health authorities manage any subsequent outbreaks in our local area.

Once the isolation period is over and the staff member or child affected has no symptoms, they should speak to us to discuss returning to the setting

### **Monitoring of this policy**

This policy will be reviewed when required by the setting management team, new government legislation and policies will be incorporated appropriately as and when required or informed.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Adopted by Authorised Signature</b>	<b>Review Date</b>
25/05/2020	Georgia Skinner	Ongoing (June 2020)