

Infection Control Policy

Blackwell Montessori Nursery is committed to providing safe environment for all children, staff and visitors.

We take into consideration the guidelines from the Health Protection Agency as well as the needs of our children and staff.

The aim of this policy is to minimize and prevent the spread of infectious diseases. We recognize that children generally deal well with many childhood illnesses; however these diseases may be very dangerous to certain groups – newborn babies, pregnant women, elderly people, children with compromised immunity, etc.

General advice for parents/carers:

- Children should not be brought to nursery if they are unwell, please contact the nursery for advice if you are unsure whether to bring your child in
- Your child might be feeling well enough when being dropped off, however they can deteriorate very quickly, parents should be prepared to be called out to collect their child, if you know you will be unavailable during the day, please let us know who to call instead
- If you know your child is/has been ill/unwell always inform staff when dropping off
- When a child becomes ill/unwell whilst at nursery, we will contact parents/carers immediately; if we can't get hold of them, we will contact other people, who are authorized to collect your child instead and let you know about the arrangement
- If your child is ill and you have decided to keep them at home, please contact the nursery and let us know, so that we can record your child's absence and inform parents and authorities about any infectious diseases on the premises
- If you have been contacted to collect your child, we will care for them in the meantime and make them as comfortable as possible; due to staff : child ratios it may not be possible to give your child the same amount of care and attention as they would receive at home, this is why ill children need to be collected as soon as possible
- If your child becomes seriously ill, it may be necessary to contact the emergency services; if this happens we will contact you once the ambulance has been called out and inform you about what is happening; if a child needs to be taken to hospital and parents/carers have not arrived at nursery in the meantime, we will try and allocate a member of staff to accompany the child, this will again depend on the staff : child ratio
- The nursery has a right to refuse an admission to a child who is unwell, this decision is non-negotiable

Exclusion periods for childhood illnesses

Condition	Exclusion Period	Comments
Chickenpox	5 days from onset of rash or until the blisters have dried.	
Cold Sores (herpes simplex)	None	Avoid kissing and contact with the sores.
Conjunctivitis	At least 24 hours.	This may not be necessary if it is non-infectious conjunctivitis
Croup	Until recovered, minimum of 48 hours	Due to constant cough children will be too exhausted to join in with normal nursery routine, breathing difficulties may also occur, plenty of rest at home is recommended
Diarrhoea & Sickness.	Until at least 48 hours after the last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting.	If your child has another attack on their return, they will be sent home immediately.
German Measles (Rubella)	Until fully recovered, no less than 5 days from onset of rash.	Preventable by immunisation (MMR 2 x doses).
Hand, Foot & Mouth	Until fully recovered, no less than 3 days from onset of blisters.	Usually a mild infection, however some children can be unwell and upset because of the blisters in their mouth. Can sometimes cause loss of appetite.
Head Lice	Sent home for treatment.	Parents will be informed immediately. Treatment must be given before returning to Nursery next day.
Hepatitis	Hep A- Until the child feels well or until 7 days after the onset of jaundice, whichever is the later. Hep B-Children who develop symptoms will be too ill to be at the setting. Hep C-Usually no symptoms but care must be taken with bodily fluids if person is known to have Hep C.	
HIV/Aids.	Should not be restricted or excluded.	
Impetigo	Until lesions are crusted or healed.	Antibiotic treatment by mouth may reduce infectious period.
Measles	At least 5 days from onset of rash.	Preventable by immunisation (MMR 2 x doses).
Meningitis	Children will be too ill to attend, it is unnecessary to exclude siblings or other close contacts.	
Mumps	At least 5 days from onset of swollen glands.	Most children are immune due to immunization

Rashes.	A child who is unwell and has a rash should visit their GP to establish the reason for it	
Ringworm	Until treatment commenced.	Treatment is important and is available from a pharmacist.
Rubella	4 days from onset of rash	Preventable by immunisation (MMR 2 x doses).
Scarlet Fever	2 days from commencing antibiotics providing they feel well enough.	Antibiotic treatment recommended for the affected child.
Slapped Cheek (fifth disease)	Exclusion is not necessary, unless child feels unwell.	
Shingles	Exclusion is only necessary if rash is weeping and cannot be covered.	Can cause chickenpox in those who are not immune (i.e. not had chickenpox). It is spread by very close contact and touch.
Scabies	Child cannot return until 3 days after treatment.	Treatment must be commenced immediately.
Thrush	Until spots have cleared.	
Threadworm	At least 24 hours.	Treatment must be sought immediately.
Temperature	Until temperature has returned to "normal"	Calpol can be given with a medication form for no more than 48 hours. However if it is thought Calpol is masking illness and the temperature rises in between doses, the child will be sent home.
Tonsillitis	If the disease is known to be caused by streptococcal (bacterial) infection the child or member of staff should be kept away from the setting until 24 hours after the start of treatment. Otherwise they should stay at home while they feel unwell.	
Whooping Cough (pertussis)	5 days from commencing antibiotics, or 21 days from onset of illness if no antibiotic treatment.	Non-infectious coughing may continue for several weeks.
Flu (influenza)	Until recovered.	
E-coli	Excluded minimum of 48 hours – under 5s until evidence of microbiological clearance	
Warts (including Verrucae)	Exclusion not necessary, should keep feet covered.	

For any other illness/condition please contact your GP for advice and inform the nursery before bringing your child in.