



## **Illness Policy**

Our aim with this policy is to care for all the children in the Pre-school. This may lead to some exclusions or restrictions when children are ill. All Saints Wise Owls promotes the good health of children attending the setting.

- Parents can be asked to keep their children at home if they have an infection. Please let the pre-school know of such illness so that we can inform other parents if necessary.
- If a child becomes ill at pre-school the staff will check if the child has a temperature and monitor the child. The staff will bring this to the attention of the manager and if the child's condition becomes serious enough a parent/ carer will be contacted to take the child home. If the pre-school is unable to contact the parents then the next emergency numbers will be tried. If these are unsuccessful they will then seek advice from the Doctor. An unwell child must be collected within an hour of contact from the pre-school. Parents/ Carers must make arrangements to collect the child within this time.
- If a child has been vomiting whilst at pre-school they will be cleaned and changed the parents/ carer will be contacted in order to collect the child.
- If a child has two or more unusually dirty nappies the parent/ carer will be contacted, this may mean collecting the child from the setting.
- We have an exclusion period of **48** hours after the **last** sickness/diarrhoea for any child who has suffered from vomiting or diarrhoea.
- We may ask that children who have a contagious condition such as conjunctivitis are kept at home for at least 24 hours.
- If a child has a significantly higher temperature than normal.
- If a child is being given antibiotics then we request that they be at home for the first 24 hours or 48 hours if it is the first time they have been given antibiotics.

We appreciate that some of these points may seem restrictive; we have a duty of care to all children who attend the setting and it is at the manager's discretion to exclude or restrict a child because of illness. The wellbeing of the child is held at the centre.

**For further guidance consult the 'Spotty Book' or contact the local Health Protection Team.**

### **Caring for sick children**

- All staff must make themselves familiar with the 'Spotty Book'. A copy is kept in the Pre-school. The book gives information and guidance on a wide range of common illnesses and states appropriate exclusion periods.
- Take the child to a quiet area where he/she can lay down and rest. UNLESS Covid symptoms are suspected then staff are required to follow the Covid policy and guidelines.
- Inform the manager/deputy (if they don't already know). DO NOT walk around with the child.

- The manager will contact the child's parents or nominated person and inform them of the situation- this must be done sensitively and without panicking the parent once the child has been made comfortable.
- Make suitable arrangements for the child to be collected if appropriate
- DO NOT administer any form of medication unless we have had prior written or verbal consent as per medication policy.
- Offer water to sip for temperatures.
- Check the child's clothing to ensure that they are comfortable and cool.
- Ensure that the child is supervised at all times and is offered comfort and reassurance from their key worker.
- If appropriate read a story to the child or play a soothing music to offer some distraction until the parent/carer arrives.
- Ofsted must be notified by the manager of any infectious diseases that a qualified medical professional considers notifiable, e.g. meningitis, and if an ambulance is required.
- Where medical investigations are taking place, we will work closely with the parents to ensure a care package is put in place. This will be documented. It may be necessary and appropriate for the child's GP to produce a letter supporting this along with potential time frames. For example, allergy and food reactions may induce a period of diarrhoea. It would be very difficult for the setting to ensure infection was not spread and to differentiate between illness and food intolerance. Advice from the GP will ensure we are supporting the child as well as protecting others in the setting.