



## **Illness and Wellbeing Policy 2024**

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 unwell. All Saints Wise Owls promotes the good health of children attending the setting. We consider the well being of the child who is unwell and also the risk to others in 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/deputy 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 may then seek advice from the Doctor/111. 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 they maybe asked to stay away from the setting.
- If a child has a significantly higher temperature than normal they should be monitored at home.
- 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.
- During an outbreak or incident, when there are either several cases, or indications of more serious disease, additional measures may be required. The setting will ensure good communication is provided to parents/carers and will seek guidance from the Health Protection Team.

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 center.

The manager and deputy will consider the up-to-date government guidance on exclusions for illness and infection. We will look at the situation as a whole and if there are multiple cases then we reserve the right to exclude children with illness till they are recovered even if guidance states otherwise.

## **Importance of Good Hygiene Practices**

At All Saints Wise Owls, we work hard to educate our children on the importance of key good hygiene practices in the setting. Children are supported in this and messages are age appropriate.

You child expect your child to be:

- Supported in washing their hands on arrival into the setting
- Washing hands regularly
- Washing hands before and after mealtimes and when taking part in any food activities
- Washing hands after toileting
- Washing hands after wiping any running noses
- Supported and encouraged to “catch their coughs” – either in hands and wash hands or coughing into their arm
- Have regular discussion and activities which support understanding good hygiene (again, age-appropriate messages and information is shared)

## **Caring for sick children**

- Take the child to a quiet area where he/she can lay down and rest.
- 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 person.
- 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 nominated person (Nic Hare) 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 diahorrea. 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.

**For further guidance consult [Health protection in children and young people settings, including education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk) or contact the local Health Protection Team.**