

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Policy

Introduction

This policy applies to all employees, Parents, Children, volunteers, students and anyone else working on behalf of Blue Planet. This policy also applies to visitors and delivery drivers visiting the Nursery.

Purpose of policy

Protect all employees, and service users including parents and children from coming into contact with Coronavirus (COVID-19).

To maintain the minimum level of staff to continue to provide the welfare needs of the children in our care.

To prevent the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Focus Area of consideration Recommendations

Children Attendance

Only children who are symptom free or have completed the required isolation period if they have been previously in contact with a person should attend the setting.

If a child appears unwell, they will be isolated from the group and looked after by a teacher who will be required to wear PPE equipment until the parents/carers arrive to pick up their child.

Children must have a negative test before returning to school.

When a child or staff member develops symptoms with coronavirus, they will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. Their fellow household members should also self-isolate for 14 days. To access testing, parents will be able to use the 111 online coronavirus service.

All children within the 'bubble' will also be sent home and advised to self-isolate until the child or staff member's test returns. It is important parents are willing to have their children tested if they have symptoms. When the child or staff member tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation and the remainder of the class 'bubble' can also return. If the child or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class 'bubble' should remain at home and self-isolate for 14 days.

Physical distancing/ grouping

Children will be divided into two groups. Group A will attend on Monday and Tuesday 9.00am to 1.00pm and Group B on Wednesday and Thursday 9.00am to 1.00pm and each group will alternate on Fridays 9.00am to 1.00pm.

As recommended by the department of Education, Children should avoid attending two settings to avoid cross contamination between settings.

Care routines including provision of snack, nappy changing and toileting will be within the regular space allocated.

Children will continue work with lots of outdoor activities and children will be divided between both gardens to undertake garden activities, art and craft etc.

Wellbeing and education

The Nursery will continue to provide a broad and balanced curriculum implementing the Montessori curriculum and Foundation stage.

We will rotate materials and these will be cleaned after every session

Equipment that cannot easily be cleaned will be removed, including all soft furnishings, soft toys and the home corner as children tend to put play food, cups etc near their mouths. We will instead have other role play activities.

Children will continue work with lots of outdoor activities and children will be divided between both gardens to undertake garden activities, art and craft etc.

We will increase the cleaning of hands more often than usual; washing hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap; promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach and frequent cleaning of touched surfaces and resources. Children will be supported in age appropriate ways to understand the steps they can take to keep themselves safe

Children will be supported to understand the changes and challenges they may be encountering as a result of Covid-19 and staff will ensure they are aware of children's attachments and their need for emotional support at this time

Workforce Attendance

Staff should attend the nursery if they are symptom free, have completed the required isolation period or achieved a negative test result.

Staff members should avoid physical contact with each other including handshakes, hugs etc. operating procedure and risk assessments within which they will be operating

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 limit drop off and pick up to 1 parent per family and stagger the timings where possible

Dropping off at the Nursery will take place as a staggered approach with parents waiting either in their cars or a safe distance from each other to maintain social distancing. As one parent drops off their child to a teacher and enters the class, the next parent will be able to drop off.

Pick up will happen in the same way. Parents will be asked to maintain a social distance from each other outside the main door and each child will be taken to their parent.

if there are any other concerns or question we will communicate through text, email or phone call.

If you would like to arrange to pick your child up slightly earlier, please arrange with us on the day Please consider how you will reduce any unnecessary travel on coaches, buses or public transport where possible

Please avoid any prolonged gatherings at drop off or pick up

Attendance to the setting will be restricted to children and staff as far as practically possible and visitors would not be permitted to the nursery unless essential (e.g. essential building maintenance). •Where essential visits which are required would be made outside of the usual nursery operational hours where possible.

Travel

Wherever possible staff and parents should travel to the nursery alone, using their own transport setting operations

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 at the Nursery.

Hygiene and Health & Safety

Hygiene - General

- Employees are advised to practice good hygiene and cleanliness standard.
- Regularly wash hands with hand wash and water for at least 20 seconds
- Regularly use hand sanitiser
- Cover mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing with either a bent elbow or tissue and always wash hands afterwards.
- Avoid close contact with others, such as handshakes and maintain a social distance of 2 meters
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Wash all clothing after each session with the children

Waste disposal

All waste must be disposed of in a hygienic and safe manner • Tissues must be immediately disposed of

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

PPE

- Government guidance is that PPE is not required for general use in early years settings to protect • against COVID- 19 transmission.
- PPE will continue to be worn as normal for nappy changing and the administration of first aid
- following guidance we do not require staff and children to wear face coverings.

Resources

- Children are not be permitted to bring items from home into the setting unless absolutely essential for their wellbeing. Where this is the case items should be appropriately cleaned upon arrival
- All resources required for play and learning experiences of children will be regularly washed and/or sterilised
- Equipment used by staff such as stationary, phones etc. will be allocated to individual staff members where possible and cleaned regularly
- 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 NHS guidance
 - Whilst waiting for the child to be collected they will be isolated from others in a nearby area.

- The staff member responsible for the child during this time will wear appropriate PPE
 - 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
- All contacts will be informed and asked to isolate for 14 days unless there is a negative test result.

Monitoring

The Nursery is closely monitoring and gathering information from The Department of Health the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the management team meet regularly and then feedback to employees.