

St Matthew's Preschool Policy

3.3 Managing children who are sick, infectious, or with allergies

(Including reporting notifiable diseases)

Policy statement

We provide care for healthy children through preventing cross infection of viruses and bacterial infections and promote health through identifying allergies and preventing contact with the allergenic substance.

Procedures for children who are sick or infectious

- If children appear unwell during the day, have a temperature, sickness, diarrhoea or pains, particularly in the head or stomach the manager calls the parents and asks them to collect the child, or send a known carer, or adult with the child's password, to collect on their behalf.
- If a child has a temperature, they are kept cool, by removing top clothing, sponging their heads with cool water, but kept away from draughts.
- Temperature is taken using a 'fever scan' kept in the first aid box.
- In extreme cases of emergency the child should be taken by ambulance to the nearest hospital and the parent informed.
- Preschool will refuse admittance to children who have a temperature, sickness and diarrhoea or a contagious infection or disease.
- Where children have been prescribed antibiotics, parents are asked to keep them at home for 48 hours before returning to the setting.
- After sickness and/or diarrhoea, parents are asked to keep children home for 48 hours after their symptoms have stopped.
- The setting has a list of excludable diseases and current exclusion times. This is displayed on the notice board in the Foyer.

Reporting of 'notifiable diseases'

- If a child or adult is diagnosed to be suffering from a notifiable disease under the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1988, the GP will report this to the Health Protection Agency.
- When the setting becomes aware, or is formally informed of the notifiable disease, the manager informs Ofsted and acts on any advice given by the Health Protection Agency.

Procedure for HIV/AIDS/Hepatitis

- HIV virus, like other viruses such as Hepatitis A, B and C are spread through body fluids. Hygiene precautions for dealing with body fluids are the same for all children and adults.
- Disposable gloves are worn when changing children's nappies, pants and clothing that are soiled with blood, urine, faeces or vomit.
- Soiled clothing is bagged for parents to collect.
- Spills of blood, urine, faeces or vomit are cleared using detox and cloths, which are disposed of appropriately.

- Tables and other furniture, furnishings or toys affected by blood, urine, faeces or vomit are cleaned using detox.

Nits and head lice

- Nits and head lice are not an excludable condition.
- On identifying cases of head lice, all parents are informed and asked to treat their child and all the family if they are found to have head lice.

Procedures for children with allergies

- When parents start their children at the setting they are asked if their child suffers from any known allergies. This is recorded on the registration form.
- If a child has an allergy, the following information is noted on their registration documents:
 - The allergen (i.e. the substance, material or living creature the child is allergic to such as nuts, eggs, bee stings, cats etc).
 - The nature of the allergic reactions e.g. anaphylactic shock reaction, including rash, reddening of skin, swelling, breathing problems etc.
 - What to do in case of allergic reactions, any medication used and how it is to be used (e.g. Epipen).
 - Control measures – such as how the child can be prevented from contact with the allergen.
- A note is made on the snack bar table and on the lunch club board to inform staff of allergies if food related.
- Parents/ health professionals train staff in how to administer special medication in the event of an allergic reaction for their child.
- Generally, no nuts or nut products are used within the setting.
- Parents are made aware in the hope that no nut or nut products are accidentally brought in, for example in lunch boxes or in birthday treats.

Insurance requirements for children with allergies and disabilities

- The insurance will automatically include children with any disability or allergy but certain procedures must be strictly adhered to as set out below. For children suffering life threatening conditions, or requiring invasive treatments; written confirmation from your insurance provider must be obtained to extend the insurance.

At all times the administration of medication must be compliant with the Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Oral medication

Asthma inhalers are now regarded as 'oral medication' by insurers and so documents do not need to be forwarded to your insurance provider.

- Oral medications must be prescribed by a GP or have manufacturer's instructions clearly written on them.
- The provider must be provided with clear written instructions on how to administer such medication.
- All risk assessment procedures need to be adhered to for the correct storage and administration of the medication.

- The group must have the parent's prior written consent. This consent must be kept on file. It is not necessary to forward copy documents to your insurance provider.

Life saving medication & invasive treatments

Adrenaline injections (Epipens) for anaphylactic shock reactions (caused by allergies to nuts, eggs etc);

- The provider must have:
 - a letter from the child's GP/consultant stating the child's condition and what medication if any is to be administered;
 - written consent from the parent or guardian allowing staff to administer medication; and
 - proof of training in the administration of such medication by the child's GP, a district nurse, children's nurse specialist or a community paediatric nurse.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of

St Matthew's Preschool

Held on

_____ (date)

Date to be reviewed

_____ (date)

Signed on behalf of the management committee

Name of signatory

Role of signatory