

Covid-19 (Coronavirus) Policy

In light of the Covid-19 pandemic we are doing everything reasonable and possible to minimise the risk to children, staff and parents. With ever changing Government policy and advice we will endeavour to ensure we are following the most recent and relevant guidance, which can be found here

General <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Early Years specifically

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures>

Currently with the restrictions lifted, we are:

- Asking our staff to continue to take lateral flow tests twice weekly, this remains voluntary but highly encouraged.
- Ensuring children are washing their hands upon entry to the nursery and regularly throughout the day
- Regularly cleaning door handles, light switches, and other communal areas
- Allowing parent and carers full access to the building
- Providing additional hand sanitisers for visitors
- Providing face masks for visitors
- Allowing the use of sand and water play, and soft toys and dressing up
- Allowing the mixing of different rooms
- Sending home anyone with symptoms as soon as possible and asking for a PCR to be taken before they return
- Working with the Test and Trace team to ensure those who need to isolate do so
- Under 18s and our staff who are double vaccinated do not need to isolate if they have been near a positive case, however those who are not double vaccinated do have to isolate in line with Government advice

InceyWinceys Day Nursery

In the event of 5 positive cases or 10% of people present testing positive within a 10 day period, we will take the following actions:

- Reintroduce doorstep drop offs - All drop offs and collections to take place outside the premises, using separate entrances for each room. Fingerprint entry to be temporarily disabled for parents and carers. When there is a queue to drop off or collect, parents will use the yellow dots on the floor to ensure they keep a distance of 2m between each family.
- The child's temperature will be taken before they are admitted inside. We reserve the right to refuse entry to any child with a temperature.
- Toys from home should be kept away and in bags, or if possible, they should be kept at home to avoid possible cross contamination.
- We would suspend the use of sand and water play, soft toys and dressing up clothes.
- Wherever possible, children will stay within small groups (or bubbles) and encouraged to play amongst their group. Where possible, staff will stay within their own room and be mindful of not breaching the bubble. A consistent lunch cover system will be used to ensure the same person covers lunch in the same room to try to limit staff within the bubble.
- Suspend Tiny Mites music sessions, as she visits each room and would limit our bubble system's effectiveness.
- Limit visitors to those necessary to the health and wellbeing of the children, to be assessed by Management.
- The children will use the garden as often as possible, while limiting it to one room at a time.
- Staff will adhere to 2m distancing rules within the staff room and wherever possible will eat in their cars or outside the premises.
- Staff are aware to be vigilant if they, any member of staff or any child in their room develop symptoms and to isolate and leave the building as quickly as possible and to engage in deep cleaning as appropriate.
- Return to virtual meetings or parents evening if needed.
- We may be forced to close a room if the staffing does not allow us to meet our ratio requirement, however this will be a last resort and we will do everything in our power to avoid this.

Revised on 1st November 2021

InceyWinceys Day Nursery

Symptoms:

The most common symptoms are :

- a high temperature,
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste.

To protect others, you must stay at home if you or someone you live with has symptoms of coronavirus. If your symptoms are mild, you'll usually be advised to not leave your home for at least seven days. Anyone you live with should not leave your home for 14 days

As the advice changes around testing, we will advise the next steps when someone is suspected to have coronavirus and take appropriate steps. **Parents must be available to come and collect the child if called.**

Communication with the Parents

Please make sure you have the “ourschoolsapp” app downloaded to your phone with the notifications turned on. This will be our primary way of contacting everyone quickly in the event of changing policies.

It is very likely that the news of changing policies will happen suddenly and without much notice and the app allows us to send one message to all.

We will endeavour to find solutions and update staff and families as quickly as possible, but please bear with us as problem solving through these unprecedented times has been challenging, particularly with the team not able to gather!

Thanks for your co-operation, support and kind words during this crisis, we are all navigating the changing restrictions together and we will get through this. Our main priority is providing safe and consistent care wherever possible.