



School Childhood Illnesses Policy

Presented and adopted by Board of Governors on 14th June 2022.

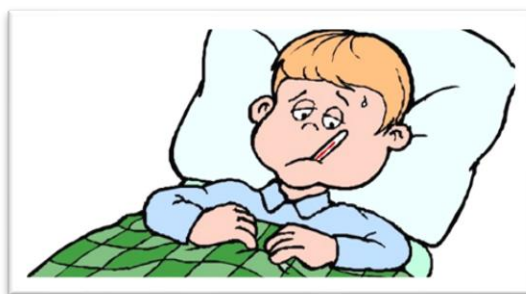
Signed:- _____

Dated:- _____

Review Cycle as and when required.

Minimising the spread of childhood infections in Ballymena Nursery School.

May we assure you that it is very common for children of pre-school age to be exposed and experience many common childhood infections and illnesses during their pre-school and penultimate pre-school period of early education. Often their developing immune systems continue to be challenged into the foundation years of lower Primary school and key stage 1.



To minimise the spread of infection and ensure the comfort of all the children in our school, the staff and our wider nursery community we follow the Public Health Agency (PHA) "Best Practice advice for nurseries and childcare settings" and PHA guidelines on "Infection control in schools and other childcare settings".

We adhere to the PHA minimum recommended periods of time for children to be kept away from nursery school to minimise the spread of childhood infections to their peers, teachers and whole nursery community.

However, we would stress these are the minimum periods of time advised by the PHA and parent's should exercise their best judgement based on their child's individual needs. It may be that a child requires additional time off from nursery school to fully recover and to avoid relapses.

While the PHA guidelines is informative and helpful we feel it is important to draw your attention to the possible risk to vulnerable children who have reduced immunity, our wider nursery community including staff, pregnant staff or mothers.

Therefore, after much discussion with our staff, parents and members of the Board of Governors we believe it is reasonable and appropriate to contact you if we suspect that your child may be suffering from an infectious disease and request that you take your child home or your child remains at home until they receive a medical professional diagnosis.

It has been our experience that conjunctivitis and hand foot and mouth can be highly infectious in nursery school and we would request that you respect the

comfort and health of the other children, staff and nursery families and keep your child at home until your child has fully recovered from these infections.

If our nursery suspects an outbreak of an infectious disease, it is our duty of care to inform the Public Health Agency's Health Protection Duty Room on 0300 555 0119.

Minimising the spread of Covid-19 in our Nursery School.

We will continue to reinforce good hand and respiratory hygiene habits for all and we will assist the children in learning self-care skills, including thorough hand washing and the correct use and disposal of tissues. Staff will carry out enhanced Covid mitigating cleaning regimes.