

SICKNESS AND MEDICATION POLICY

Deadline for policy to be reviewed by:	Reviewed and shared on:	Manager/director initials:
September 2024	Sep 2024	LC
Sep 2025	Sep 2025	LC

Our aim

The health of the children in our care is a priority and we work hard to provide the best possible care with this in mind. It is essential that we take all necessary steps to minimise the spread of infection and take appropriate action if a child becomes unwell while at the setting.

Sickness and our unique setting

We recognise and celebrate the numerous benefits of our outdoor setting. However, we also must acknowledge that the outdoor environment poses additional challenges for sick children. Bee in the Woods Kindergartens are very different to indoor nurseries. We are exposed to the elements, which can be far more physically demanding on the children than an indoor setting. We will always err on the side of caution regarding any actual or suspected illness.

As teachers, educators and carers, our job is to ensure the wellbeing of all children, through our Kindergarten and we are unable to care for sick or convalescing children outdoors who cannot partake in Forest School activities.

Please note; if your child misses any sessions/days due to illness we cannot refund the monies paid or offer an alternative session.

The role of parents/carers

We request that parents/carers:

- Do not bring their child to a session if they are at all unwell;
- Notify us as soon as possible if a child is unwell and cannot attend a session;
- Notify us as soon as possible of any infectious disease* in order for us to inform other parents/carers, adults vulnerable to infection, parents/carers of children vulnerable to infection;
- Be aware of notifiable infectious diseases. Please refer the list below;
- Call us before leaving home if they are unsure if their child is well enough to attend to avoid distress and upset if a child has to be turned away.



- Do not return their child to the setting until they are clear of infection, this is essential to minimise the spread of illness.

We ask that parents/carers understand that we cannot permit children with the following conditions to attend:

- Vomiting and/or diarrhoea; a child may not return to Bee in the Woods Kindergarten until 48 hrs after the last episode of vomiting/diarrhoea;
- High temperature; we request that children do not return until 48hrs after the fever has subsided. This must be without the intervention of antipyretics, such as paracetamol and ibuprofen;
- Infectious disease. We request that children do not return until clear of infection and no longer contagious. Further details can be found below in 'Infectious diseases and exclusion periods'

Infectious diseases and exclusion periods

We refer to NHS & Public Health England guidelines regarding the length of time a child should be excluded from contact with other children at our setting.

Our list below provides some examples of illnesses and the required exclusion period's we request.

The full list can be found here.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/522337/Guidance_on_infection_control_in_schools.pdf

- Chicken Pox and Shingles - At least 6 days after the appearance of the last crop of spots, when they are fully crusted over and when the child feels well enough.
- Bronchiolitis - Until fully recovered
- Conjunctivitis - Once treatment has begun and they are well enough
- Diarrhoea and Vomiting - 48 Hours after the symptoms have ceased
- Roseola Slapped cheek disease - Until they feel physically well
- Hand foot and mouth disease - Until all the blisters have healed
- Head Lice - Once the treatment has been given
- Hepatitis A - Until they feel well and for 5 days after the onset of the jaundice
- Cold Sores - Until the child is well enough
- Impetigo - Once the infection has completely healed
- Measles - At least 4 days after the rash first appears and the child is well enough
- Mumps - 9 days after the swelling subsides
- Ringworm - At least 24 hours after the first course of treatment has been given.
- Rubella (German Measles) - At least five days after the rash first appears and until the child is well enough.



- Scabies - At least 24 hours after the first course of treatment has been given
- Scarlet Fever - Once they are well enough
- Threadworms - At least 24 hours after the first course of treatment has been given
- Verrucae - Verrucae must be covered with a waterproof plaster.
- Whooping Cough - Once they are well enough
- Meningitis - Until the child is well enough
- A child on antibiotics - At least 48 hours after the first course of antibiotics has been given and the child is well enough. This is to ensure no adverse reaction takes place and the child can be monitored by the parent / carer at home.
- At least 24hrs after any medical intervention including vaccinations has been given/started and the child is well enough. This is to ensure no adverse reaction takes place and the child can be monitored closely by the parent/carer at home.
- See Coronavirus/ Covid 19 policy for updated Government advice.

Minimising the spread of infection/sickness at Bee in the Woods Kindergartens

As well as ensuring parents are aware of our sickness policy and exclusion periods, we work hard on site to minimise the spread of sickness and infection:

- Good hygiene practice concerning the clearing of any spilled bodily fluids is carried out at all times.
- Staff that are sick or unwell do not attend the setting and only return to work once they are well enough to do so.
- Cuts or open sores, whether on adults or children will be covered with a sticky plaster or other suitable dressing.
- We keep a list of notifiable diseases, and provide information to parents about sickness and disease.

When a child becomes unwell during a session

When a child becomes unwell during a session, we will make every effort to contact the parent/carer to discuss the problem and decide on what course of action to take and appropriate treatment will be administered by staff. If a parent/carer cannot be contacted.

Staff will follow First Aid procedures and continue efforts to contact a parent/carer or, if necessary, an emergency contact provided on enrollment.



Please note in the case of an emergency, we will contact the emergency services before contacting the parents/carers.

In order to assess the child's condition, we may take the child's temperature using a forehead thermometer. Importantly, if the child's **temperature is above 38°C the parent/carer will be called to advise them of their child's condition and request that they are collected as soon as possible.**

Prescription and nonprescription medication

Neither prescribed or non-prescribed medication can be given without prior parental/carer consent. Staff will discuss the need for administering medication with parents/carers. This is in order to ascertain whether it is appropriate for medication to be administered at the setting.

On arrival at the setting, **if a child needs medication to control a temperature or illness, we will ask that they do not attend our preschool that day.** If a child requires medication for a minor pain or injury, but they are otherwise healthy and well in themselves (e.g. toothache, hypermobility, a sore arm after vaccinations), then we can administer medication to them, provided we have prior consent (parents must provide this electronically using FAMLY). Practitioners must check with a parent whether any medication has already been given that day (or in the last 24 hours) to ensure that they are aware of time frames for safe administration of dosages.

Any medication which is administered on site must be administered with two members of staff present to check dosages.

Children with medical needs or long-term health conditions

Children or families will not be excluded because of any condition they may have. Children with medical needs who attend our setting will receive the support and appropriate care they may need during their time with us. We aim to seek clarity on the roles and responsibilities of our setting and of the parents/carers in respect of each child's medical needs. A Medications Form must be completed regarding any medication we may need to give and a Health Care Plan will be put in place. Health Care Plans will be written in collaboration with parents and shared with all staff.

Head lice

Children with head lice will not be excluded from the setting. However, head lice must be treated promptly by parents and carers. Parents will be notified if there is a case of head lice at the setting.