

Infection Control

EYFS: 3.44, 3.45, 3.46

At Watoto Pe-School we promote the good health of all children attending through maintaining high hygiene standards and reducing the chances of infection being spread. We follow the Health Protection in schools and other Childcare Facilities guidance which sets out when and how long children need to be excluded from settings, when treatment/medication is required and where to get further advice from.

Viruses and infections can be easily passed from person to person by breathing in air containing the virus, which is produced when an infected person talks, coughs or sneezes. It can also spread through hand/face contact after touching a person or surface contaminated with viruses.

We follow the guidance below to prevent a virus or infection from spreading around the Pre-School. Our staff:

- Take steps to ensure symptomatic individuals do not attend Pre-School – **see Sickness & Illness policy**
- Implement robust handwashing routines with extra stations, where possible. Hands will be washed thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap, and dried thoroughly, or use alcohol hand rub/sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered
- Clean hands-on arrival at the setting, before and after eating, and after sneezing or coughing
- Ensure good respiratory hygiene - use a tissue or elbow to cough or sneeze and use bins for tissue waste; promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach for all staff and children
- Develop children's understanding of the above and the need for good hygiene procedures in helping them to stay healthy
- Encourage staff and, where age/stage appropriate, children not to touch their mouth, eyes and nose (consider face washing with children where appropriate)
- Wear the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when changing nappies, toileting children and dealing with any other bodily fluids. Staff are requested to dispose of these in the appropriate manner and wash hands immediately
- Ensure that help is available for children who have trouble cleaning their hands independently
- Encourage young children to learn and practise these habits through games, songs and repetition
- Where possible, ensure spaces are well ventilated using natural ventilation (opening windows) or ventilation units
- Prop doors open, where safe to do so (bearing in mind fire safety and safeguarding), to limit use of door handles and aid ventilation
- Clean frequently touched surfaces often using standard products, such as detergents and disinfectant. (including surfaces that children are touching, such as toys, books, tables, chairs, doors, sinks; wiping down toilets after each use, light switches, computers)
- Clean all toys, equipment and resources on a regular basis by following a comprehensive cleaning rota and using antibacterial cleanser, or through washing in the washing machine
- Wash or clean all equipment used by babies and toddlers as and when needed, including when the children have placed it in their mouth
- Store dummies in individual hygienic dummy boxes labelled with the child's name to prevent cross-contamination with other children
- Store toothbrushes (where applicable) hygienically to prevent cross-contamination

- Immediately clean and sterilise (where necessary) any dummy or bottle that falls on the floor or is picked up by another child
- Provide labelled individual bedding for children that is not used by any other child and wash this at least once a week
- Clean and sterilise all potties and changing mats before and after each use
- Clean toilets at least daily and check them throughout the day
- Ask parents and visitors to remove all outdoor footwear, or use shoe covers, when entering rooms where children may be crawling or sitting on the floor
- Where applicable wear specific indoor shoes or slippers whilst inside the rooms and make sure that children wear them as well
- Follow the sickness and illness policy when children are ill to prevent the spread of any infection in the Pre-School. Staff are also requested to stay at home if they are contagious.


In addition:

- The Preschool Manager and deputy manager retains the right of refusal of all children, parents, staff and visitors who are deemed contagious and may impact on the welfare of the rest of the Pre-School
- Parents will be made aware of the need for these procedures to follow these guidelines whilst in the Pre-School
- Periodically each room in the Pre-School will be deep cleaned including carpets and soft furnishings to ensure the spread of infection is limited. This will be implemented earlier if the need arises
- In the event of an infection outbreak the Pre-School will, where appropriate, undertake a deep clean to ensure the spread of infection is contained
- We will follow Government health guidance, as well as seeking legal advice and information from our insurers, on any national outbreak of a virus/pandemic and keep parents informed of any course of action. Each specific circumstance will differ and to ensure we take the most appropriate action; we will treat each case on an individual basis
- In addition, where contagious outbreaks occur, we will adopt Government guidance for all visitors to minimise the risk of further spreading of the infection
- The Pre-School will ensure stocks of tissues, hand washing equipment, cleaning materials and sterilising fluid are always maintained. These will be increased during the winter months, or when flu and cold germs are circulating.
- Ensure play equipment is appropriately cleaned between groups of children using it and that multiple groups do not use it simultaneously

Related Policies.

Sickness and illness

Lock down

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the Pre-School	Date for review
September 2020		September 2023

