

Highbury Primary School & Nursery



Sickness and Illness Policy

Aim

The health and wellbeing of all our children is of paramount importance to us. We recognise it is our responsibility to ensure the health and safety of all our children whilst at nursery through identifying and discussing health issues with parents or carers. This policy has been devised to ensure that children who become unwell at nursery are treated sensitively and with respect. It also helps us to prevent the spread of infection and protect other children from illness.

Procedure

We retain the right to refuse a child who appears to be suffering from an infectious or contagious illness/disease. For clarification on an infectious or contagious disease, please refer to the Health Protection Agency. We also retain the right to refuse a child if they present as being unwell. If a child is reliant on paracetamol we consider them not well enough to attend.

If your child becomes unwell at nursery

If your child becomes ill whilst at nursery we will assess your child's condition. Appropriate action will be taken which includes taking medical advice if necessary. The parent/carer will be contacted as soon as possible and requested to collect their child. Paracetamol may be administered with the consent of the parent (please refer to Administering Medicines Policy).

In the event that we are unable to contact the main parent/carer, we will make every effort to contact a named person on the child's emergency contact list. In the event that contact is unsuccessful we will keep trying, whilst monitoring the child's condition closely.

If a child becomes seriously ill or injured during his/her session, the nursery reserves the right to call for emergency assistance and if necessary, remove him/her to hospital.

If your child becomes unwell at home

In order to maintain a healthy environment, we ask you to refrain from bringing your child to nursery if they are sick or displaying signs of illness. This is for the protection of your child and also for the protection of the other children attending nursery. In accordance with our Attendance Policy, please inform us if your child is sick by using the "Sick" tab on Famly. Alternatively you can telephone the office on 02392 215600.

Sickness and Diarrhoea

If your child has a bout of sickness and/or diarrhoea, we have an exclusion policy of 48 hours. This is in accordance with NHS guidelines. This is to help isolate the infection and prevent others from contracting it and risking an outbreak throughout the nursery. It is also appropriate that children who have been sick take an adequate amount of time to recuperate and regain their strength. They also need this time to bring their immune system back to a strong level.

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We understand the needs of working parents and will not exclude children from nursery unnecessarily. However it is at the discretion of the Nursery Manager and Head Teacher when requesting the exclusion of a child for illness or infection and that decision is final.

Please inform us as soon as possible if your child will be absent for a long period due to illness.

Our staff will report any worries about a child's health or wellbeing to the parent/carer immediately. Parents/carers are responsible for keeping the nursery informed and up to date about their child's health.

Statutory Requirements for Exclusion

Up to date exclusion periods for various childhood ailments can be found by visiting:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/children-and-young-people-settings-tools-and-resources>

Policy Reviewed:	June 2025	Nursery Manager:	Rebecca Frost
Review Date:	June 2026	Admin Officer:	Angie Bayliss

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