Covid-19 Policy

Policy statement

During the COVID-19 pandemic, parents/carers have been asked to keep their children at home wherever possible. While Binfield Preschool will try to remain a safe place for staff, children and families, fewer children making the journey to preschool and keeping numbers as low as possible will help to protect the NHS and save lives by reducing the risk of spreading the virus. Everyone should be aware of Government guidelines and follow advice from Public Health England on self-isolating if they or members of their family develop symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19).

Further information can be found: www.gov.uk/publications/coronavirus-19 - Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus outbreak

The aim of this policy is to outline the precautionary measures Binfield Preschool have put into place to minimize the spread of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) and to protect staff and children at our setting. However, our advice remains that if you, your child, or another member of your household has any symptoms of Covid-19, please stay at home.

Main Symptoms of Coronavirus

The main symptoms of the Covid-19 are:

- a new, persistent cough- this means coughing a lot or 3 or more times in a day
- a high temperature - 37.8 or above (dependent of what is the person’s normal temperature)
- a loss of or changes to smell and taste

As Covid-19 is a new disease and much is being learnt about it day by day, please keep in regular contact with Government guidelines to be informed of new symptoms as they arise.

Arrivals /Departures

- Please check your child’s temperature before leaving home (this could become part of your morning routine)
- Please do not bring your child to preschool if he/she is showing signs of being unwell
- If staff suspect a child of being unwell on arrival, he/she will not be permitted into preschool
- Only one adult, who is the parent or main carer should bring/collect a child to/from preschool and as much as possible and siblings or other children should be kept away
- Adults are expected to maintain a 2m distance whilst queueing by using the markers on the floor outside the pavilion
Each parent/carer should stand on a 2m marker whilst in the queue and move forward when the next marker becomes available

When a child reaches the marker nearest the building, they will be met by a member of staff and escorted into the building. Adults will not be permitted to accompany their child into the Pavilion.

If a child is upset and reluctant to go with the member of staff, the parent/carer should leave the queue, settle the child and queue up again behind those already waiting. If the child is still upset about going in without their adult, the parent/carer must decide if they are comfortable to leave the child upset and leave it to the staff to settle the child or to take the child home.

The children will be asked to wash their hands upon arrival and regularly throughout the day

Due to restrictions on our opening hours, we will have strict arrival and departure times, which parents/carers must adhere to. Late comers will not be allowed entry unless a parent has telephoned to report a late arrival.

Parents/carers must not be late at pick up times. Any child who is not collected on time will be treated as an uncollected child.

Children’s bags and belongings

- Children will not be permitted to bring toys or items from home into preschool
- Each child will be expected to bring in a water bottle that is clearly labelled and easily identified.
- Only spare clothes for children who are prone to toileting accidents and nappies (and related products) will be allowed to be brought into preschool. The bag will be kept on a hook in the preschool entrance and only the items themselves brought into setting

Clothing and footwear

- Children should be dressed in clothing that they can easily manage themselves when toileting, i.e. no belts, no tie-up trousers, no tight buttons etc, to minimise the need for help from the staff
- Footwear should be easy to take on and off, e.g. slip-on shoes, such as Crocs or Welly boots, or Velcro fastening, avoiding laces and difficult zips, to enable the children to manage taking them on and off themselves and to minimise the need for help from the staff.

What to do if your child or someone in your household is displaying symptoms of Covid-19

- If your child or someone in your household has any symptom of Covid-19, please keep your child at home. All members of your household will be required to self-isolate
- If you wish your child to return to preschool before the required 14-day self-isolation period, you can request for him/her to be tested for Coronavirus by calling 111. You must continue to self-isolate until you receive the results of the test. If the test is negative, your child may return to preschool as long as they are feeling well and no longer suffering with the symptoms of whatever made them ill. If the result is positive for Covid-19, you and your family must continue to self-isolate for at least 14 days
What will happen if a child shows signs of coronavirus whilst at preschool

- The child’s parent(s) will be called to collect the child
- The child will be separated from the other children and cared for by a member of staff, who will wear appropriate PPE – face mask, visor, gloves, apron – until the parent(s) collects him/her
- The child and his/her family members will be asked to get tested for Covid-19 and self-isolate while awaiting the results
- If the child tests positive for Covid-19, the preschool will close for 14 days to allow everyone to self-isolate and the preschool will be thoroughly cleaned before accepting children again
- If the child tests negative for Covid-19, but someone in the child’s household tests positive, the child will not be permitted to return to preschool and everyone in the household must isolate for 14 days
- If the child and all his/her family members test negative for Covid-19, he/she can return to preschool as long as they are feeling well and no longer suffering with the symptoms of whatever made them ill

Closure of setting

- The setting will close for a period of 14 days if any member of staff or child tests positive for Covid-19
- Before accepting children back into the preschool after closure following a positive test for Covid-19, the setting and resources will be thoroughly cleaned

Play and Learning

- The children are not expected to wear masks or gloves at preschool during the pandemic
- They should feel safe and secure at the preschool
- The children will not be expected to social distance while at preschool. Instead, we will only invite a certain number of children into preschool based on priority, to create one social bubble to minimise their contact with other children
- Throughout the week, as much as possible the bubble will remain the same. This is achieved by reducing numbers to prioritise certain children during the pandemic, i.e. children of keyworker’s, ii. vulnerable children, including those with SEND and/or EHC plan, CP plan or CIN plan, iii. school leavers, and iv. any other child considered a priority up to a maximum of 10 per day
- Each child within the bubble will be allocated their own toys/resources as much as possible and resources/soft furnishings will be rotated and cleaned daily
- Shared play will be limited, and each child will be allocated their own resources for messy, sand, and water play that will be discarded and refreshed daily
- The children will spend more time outside. Staff will use walkie-talkies to communicate between the indoor and outdoor spaces
Contact with staff

- Children will not be expected to avoid contact with staff at preschool and vice versa.
- Staff may cuddle a child who is upset or needs comfort/reassurance, but not for a prolonged period and should avoid direct face-to-face contact. If a child is not settling, other than in the arms of a staff member, the parent will be called to collect the child.
- The risk to children and staff of catching the virus from another person has been reduced by forming a bubble of a small number of children (up to 10) and reduced staff (2).

Outings

- The children will still be taken on walks in the park/woods if the staff deem it safe to do so and social distancing guidelines can be followed.
- Social distancing will form part of the outing risk assessment during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Attending other settings

- Children who attend more than one setting will not be accepted at preschool in order to minimise the risk of spreading Covid-19. This is in line with the Government guidance of keeping children in social bubbles and not mixing with children outside of that group.

This policy will be reviewed regularly and updated as and when needed by the government guidelines.

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<td>Name of signatory</td>
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<td>Role of signatory (e.g. chair, director or owner)</td>
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