

6. COVID-19

Policy Statement

St Michael's Community Nursery will provide a safe and healthy workplace and learning environment for all staff, children and such other persons as may be affected by its activities. Good health and safety management will be an integral part of the way that the setting operates and will be considered across work activities and the wide range of educational activities delivered both inside and outdoors. Our priority is to deliver face to face, high quality education and childcare to all children, ensuring continuation of educational attainment, future life chances and good mental and physical health. As the COVID-19 situation continues, the setting will work in consideration of government guidelines, following United Kingdom Health Security Agency advice to protect children, staff, parents, visitors and our community.

Procedures

We will regularly review risk assessments, policies, procedures and practices where additional information is gained through changes in government guidance, monitoring or following an incident if necessary.

Environment and resources

Daily health and safety checks take place, with the addition of re-cleaning of high touch points.

The indoor environment will be well ventilated using natural ventilation, opening windows and removing the door strips from the door whilst the weather permits us to do so. We will use the government provided Carbon Dioxide monitor in the main room to ensure ventilation is adequate. There are currently no restrictions necessary regarding limiting use or quarantining resources

Personal care

Parents are requested to inform the nursery if children attend more than one setting.

Regular hand washing will be enforced. As a minimum, on entry, before and after snack and lunch, after toileting and ideally after play with malleable materials (sand, mud, playdough) .

Staff will communicate expectations about sneezing, coughing, tissues and disposal ('catch it, bin it, kill it') and avoiding touching mouth, nose and eyes with hands. Hand washing will be expected following an incidence of the above.

Visual prompts will be used in the environment to support children's understanding of good hygiene.

Hygiene practice

During the pandemic we expect staff to encourage and support all children to show an increased proper personal concern for their own safety and for that of the people around them. We also require staff to exercise due care and attention and observe safe working methods.

Grouping children.

Local outbreaks ~ should a local outbreak/lockdown require limited numbers of children attending, priority places will be offered in the following order:-

- Vulnerable children including those with additional needs at the discretion of the setting.
- FEET funded children and those in receipt of Early Years Pupil Premium.
- Children whom have at least one parent as a key worker.
- 3 & 4 year old children who will be attending school in the next academic year.
- Other 3 & 4 year old Children
- 2 year old Children.

Asymptomatic testing and vaccination

St. Michael's Community Nursery will enable staff who are eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine or booster vaccine to attend booked appointments where possible.

The requirement for asymptomatic twice weekly testing was withdrawn 21/02/2022.

Responding to a suspected case

There is no longer a legal requirement for people with coronavirus (COVID-19) infection to self-isolate. However, whilst the legal requirement to self-isolate has ended, both staff and children should not be admitted to the setting if they have symptoms of Covid-19 but should stay at home and avoid contact with other people.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts>

We will retain a supply lateral flow testing (LFT) kits to enable staff to test should they exhibit symptoms. Staff with a positive LFT result should self-isolate for the current government recommended time (the nursery manager will confirm with individual staff members in accordance with government updates and personal circumstances)

Close contacts of a confirmed case

Current guidance suggests that children and young people who usually attend an education or childcare setting and who live with someone who has COVID-19 should continue to attend the setting as normal. However, we are also responsible for providing a safe, healthy workplace and learning environment for all staff, children and such other persons as may be affected by our activities. As we share our premises with others and have staff and families who may be at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19, we need to ensure our policies continue to reflect safer behaviours, ensuring the confidence of all premises

users.

Therefore: -

- We request that children from positive households do not attend nursery. We are aware that personal circumstances vary and may be able to make exceptions which will be at the discretion of the manager.
- If an adult becomes unwell and minimum ratios cannot be met, parents will be contacted to collect their children, using the priority places as above.

Communication with staff and parents

Regular newsletters which offer support for home learning are sent to staff and parents of the current cohort. Additional information may be communicated with the emergency cascade being used if necessary.

Online safety

As a result of the pandemic there is an increase in communicating with parents and children using online media. Below are some things to consider when using virtual media, especially where webcams are involved:

- Staff and children must wear suitable clothing, as should anyone else in the household.
- Any computers used should be in appropriate areas, for example, not in bedrooms.
- Language must be professional and appropriate, including any family members in the background.
- Staff must only use tapestry and platforms pre-approved by the nursery manager/deputy.
- No meetings should be recorded without permission of all parties involved and the reasons for recording known

Wellbeing

At St. Michaels Community Nursery we believe being outdoors in our natural environment reduces stress and helps to facilitate the play needs of our children. The government has acknowledged that the risk of transmission of COVID-19 is significantly lower outdoors and as such it is our intention to use our outdoor spaces as fully as possible. Staff recognise that children will have had differing experiences during the pandemic. We request that parents share any anxieties their children may have with us and we will also communicate any specific or repeated concerns raised whilst children are at nursery.

Government guidance used to inform this policy:- (correct as 27/02/2022)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures>

Covid-19 Risk assessment from w/c 28/02/2022
 Completed by Hilary Budd: 19/08/2021. Updated 28/02/22

HAZARD To Staff and children	Control Measures	actions	Additional notes
Contamination between adults and children	<p>Minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by requesting those that have Covid -19 symptoms, or have someone in their household who does, do not attend the setting.</p> <p>Good hygiene practice ~ Cleaning hands more often than usual washing thoroughly for 20 seconds with soap and running water. Dry thoroughly.</p> <p>Wearing of face masks at drop off and collection</p> <p>Ensuring good respiratory hygiene</p>	<p>Parents are requested to not bring children into the setting if their child or any person in the household displays symptoms of Covid 19.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cleaning product available for office users. ● Internal space relayed to allow more available floor space per child and maintain space between activities. ● Staff wash hands upon entry to setting. ● Staff support children washing hands before entry to the setting using soap and water, aqueous cream or hand sanitizer. ● Adults and children wash hands before and after snack times. ● Adults to wash hands pre and during snack preparation. ● Parents requested to wear face masks, unless exempt at drop off and pick up times. ● Visitors requested to wear face masks, unless exempt, when inside the setting ● Promote catch it, bin it, kill it. Provide additional small bins for used tissues Teach coughing in tissue or 	<p>Anti bac wipes in office</p> <p>Provide soap and signage</p> <p>Provide external handwashing facilities and signage</p>

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