

Outbreak Management Plan

Introduction

This plan is based on the contingency framework for managing local outbreaks of COVID-19, provided by the Department for Education (DfE).

We implement measures in this plan in response to recommendations provided by our local authority (LA), the director of public health (DPH), Public Health England (PHE) our local health protection teams or by following government guidance.

These measures will be implemented to help prevent the spread of infection within the nursery setting, to manage a COVID-19 outbreak, to react to high COVID-19 infection rates in the community or when all measures in place are still failing to reduce risk and infection.

It is important that everyone complies with the latest Government guidance on Coronavirus. Compassionate leadership is at the heart of offering continued nursery care and we will do everything we can to be honest, open and to communicate with you.

Measures to prevent the spread of infection

Since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, we have been pleased with our Safe Operating Procedures and the adaptations we have made to our everyday practice to ensure we offered, and continue to offer, our staff and children a safe environment. Hygiene remains the key element of infection prevention and control. We have made the decision to keep the following procedures in place

- Any child, staff member, parent or visitor with coronavirus symptoms must not attend nursery and must isolate at home.
- Children will not be accepted into nursery if they have been given fever reducing medication, at parent's discretion, after 4am on the day of their session (after 9am for children with afternoon bookings).
- Any person displaying symptoms must not return to nursery until they have completed the required isolation period of 14 days and/or received a negative coronavirus test, in line with government guidelines. Children with temperatures cannot return until they have been 24 hours fever free, without the need of medication to assist, in line with PH DfE guidelines.

- Parents are not allowed onto the nursery premises when dropping or picking up their child from nursery.
- Increased cleaning processes remain in place.
- Staff members carry out regular Lateral Flow Device testing (due for review by PH, DfE in September 2021)
- Ventilation is a key part of infection control, doors and windows remain open and outdoor play is encouraged.
- All persons travelling outside of the UK must adhere to instructions and testing in line with the government guidance.

Management of an Outbreak of COVID-19 in a nursery setting

When the nursery infection cases of children or staff members reach 10% or there are 5 confirmed cases (whichever comes first) in a nursery setting over a 10-day period this may be referred to as a COVID-19 outbreak. St Catherine's Independent Nursery will take further advice from PHE. Actions may be:

- A more intense deep clean
- Restrictions of people entering the nursery building
- Partial closure of areas in the nursery
- Isolation of identified children or staff members
- Investigation by the LA Health Protection Team

Management of a Cluster in a nursery setting

When there are increased nursery infection cases of children or staff members at a nursery setting over a 10-day period this may be referred to as a COVID-19 cluster. St Catherine's Independent Nursery will take further advice from PHE. The actions we will take are:

- As current guidance does not request that nursery settings isolate and close, we are instructing all staff members connected with a positive case to take daily Lateral Flow tests for 10 days
- Any person contacted by NHS Track and Trace must isolate in accordance to government guidance
- St Catherine's Independent Nursery will ensure legal ratios continue to be met

- There will remain a Safeguarding Lead, Named First Aider and Named Manager on site at all times.

Reaction to high infection rates in the local community

St Catherine's Independent Nursery ensures that they are up to date with infection records in the South Ribble area. If contacted by DsPH or the LA regarding a high level of infection in the local community the following actions may be recommended:

- Trips and outings in the area are limited or stopped completely for all children
- Events and social days at the nurseries are cancelled
- Visitors are not permitted onto the nursery site unless essential to a child's development or well-being or to manage an essential need (ie. site maintenance). Any visitors that are permitted on site must wear full PPE and give their details to allow St Catherine's Independent Nursery to manage contact tracing if needed.

Actions following high levels of risk and infection

Attendance restrictions will only be used as a last resort. Our requests would be presented in the following order:

- If you are able to keep your child at home, please do so.
- Only vulnerable children and those whose parents are critical workers may attend.
- Only vulnerable children and those with both parents as critical workers may attend.

St Catherine's Independent Nursery wishes to remain transparent in all proposed actions and advice that we receive from any of the above-mentioned professionals. We thank you for adhering to our Safe Operating Procedures and Risk Assessments and for taking the time to read this Outbreak Management Plan.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs Helen Brockliss - St Catherine's Independent Nursery's Safeguarding and Compliance Lead at Info@stcatherinesnursery.co.uk or via our Blossom app.

