

BEETLEY & DISTRICT PRESCHOOL

Registered as a Charity Number 1181636

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) ADDENDUM

At **Beetley & District Preschool** we work with children, parents, external agencies, and the community to ensure the welfare and safety of children during the COVID-19 pandemic and to continue to give them the very best start in life. Children have the right to be treated with respect, be helped to thrive and to be safe from any abuse in whatever form during this time. We aim to take steps and make changes to ensure that children's welfare and safety is paramount.

Legal framework and definition of safeguarding

In addition to the legislation laid out in our Child Protection Policy we will adhere to the following government guidance:

- Safe Working in Education, Childcare, Children's Social Care Settings including the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – 14 May 2020
- Coronavirus (COVID-19): Safeguarding in Schools, Colleges and other providers – 27 March 2020
- Actions for Early Years and Childcare providers during the Coronavirus – 4th February 2021
- Educational and Childcare settings National Lockdown – 5th January 2021

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/actions-for-early-years-and-childcare-providers-during-the-covid-19-pandemic>

During this time these important safeguarding principles will remain the same:

- with regard to safeguarding, the best interests of children must always continue to come first
- if anyone in a school or college has a safeguarding concern about any child they should continue to act and act immediately
 - a DSL or deputy should be available
 - it is essential that unsuitable people are not allowed to enter the children's workforce and/or gain access to children

During the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic we will achieve this by:

- All staff members will do a lateral flow test twice a week to and if they have a positive result, they will book a PCR test and inform the preschool manager of the result. (To be reviewed by the Government at the end of September 2021)

- Opening the setting to all children, unless advised to take extra measures by the Local authority, director of public health (Dsph) and PHE health protection team (HPT), to help break chains of transmission. Advice will be sort if 2 or more children or staff members have mixed closely with someone has tested positive with covid or if 2 or more children or staff members test positive for covid.
- If we are advised to close or reduce numbers attending, we will endeavour to continue to offer preschool sessions to vulnerable children (defined as those assessed under Section 17 of The Children Act 1989 as a Child in need, have a Child Protection plan or who are looked after; have an EHCP or have been assessed by Educational providers or local authorities as vulnerable) and children of key workers in the first instance.
- Keeping up regular contact with families by speaking to them about any difficulties they may be having due to spending more time together than usual and signpost them to where they can get additional support.
- Remaining vigilant for signs and indicators of abuse and raise any concerns by following the settings safeguarding policy and procedures.
- Reporting immediately if we suspect a child is being or is at risk of being significantly harmed by neglect or abuse, following settings procedures.
- Following Norfolk's principles as set out in the Threshold Guide, continuing to effectively work together with other agencies, even in isolation by adapting working methods and making use of family's social media links and technology.
- Ensuring that where the use of social media and technology is used to maintain contact with families that this is done in a safe and appropriate manner, in line with settings policies and procedures.
- Carry out a risk assessment on the learning environment to highlight what needs to be altered to make it safe for children and staff to attend.
 - Have wash stations and hand sanitiser is in our outside play area for children, parents/carers and staff to use.
 - Continue frequent and regular hand washing throughout the day with soap and water or sanitiser for both adults and children.
 - Continue to ensure all children use the snuffle stations when they have to clean their nose.
 - Continue with our cleaning regime of cleaning touched surfaces throughout the day, cleaning equipment and toys at the end of each session with sanitising solution or isolating it for 72 hours.
 - Steam clean hard floor areas and spray soft cushions and carpets with anti-bacterial spray at the end of each session.
- Children will not be able to bring in toys or comforters from their own home.
- They will be allowed to bring a bag with a change of clothes, hat, and sun cream.

- Parents will not be allowed entry into the setting and will have to wait outside the preschool gates until a member of staff allows them access.
- Children will be required to use the outside handwashing station to wash hands before entering the session.
- Encourage attendance of children with a social worker and notify the social worker if not attending.
- Carry out a risk assessment on children with an EHCP to determine whether their needs can be safely met in the educational environment or if it would be safer for them to remain at home.
- A Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) will be available on site during preschool operating hours or contactable by phone when working from home.
- Ensure best endeavours are met in providing a qualified first aider on site at all times.
- All child protection conferences will be held virtually until further notice.
- Provide home learning support and activities on FAMLY and through email for parents who decide to keep their children at home.
- Keep in regular contact with families offering support if needed.
- Signpost them to www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/mentalhealth or the Norfolk & Suffolk NHS Foundation trust First Response number 0808 196 3494 if they need Mental health and wellbeing support.
- Report any death of a child to The National Child Mortality Database (NCMD) whether related to Coronavirus or not <https://www.ncmd.info/2020/03/20/covid19/>

Action to be taken if a child is unwell or we have confirmed cases of Covid

- If a child has any symptoms at home, please keep the child at home, contact 111 for advice and inform preschool, either by phoning them as soon as possible or sending a message using the FAMLY app.
- A child who has symptoms or tests positive for Covid, will be able to return to preschool once they have isolated for 10 days or when the symptoms have cleared up. As each case will be different, we require parents to have a conversation either with the Preschool Manager (Di Calvert) or Deputy Manager (Emma Ellis)
- If a child becomes unwell whilst in the setting, they will be separated from the rest of the group, their temperature will be taken, and parents/carers will be contacted to collect them. The person who is looking after the unwell child will wear PPE, face shield or mask, disposable gloves, and apron. Any equipment the child has been in contact with will be cleaned following guidance set out in Covid-19: cleaning in non-healthcare settings (15 May 2020).
- Once the child has been collected, resources and the premises will under-go a thorough cleaning following the guidance set out in Covid-19: cleaning in non-healthcare settings (15 May 2020).

- If we have a confirmed case of Covid-19 from someone who has been attending the preschool, the preschool will remain open, but we will inform all families that we have had a confirmed case.

NHS Test and Trace will identify and inform families if their child or they have been identified as a close contact.

- We will inform Ofsted of any confirmed cases either child or staff member. We will also inform them if we have to close due to the number of cases within the setting or staff shortage due to Covid.

Self-isolation rules for close contact in settings.

- Close contact who are fully vaccinated or those under 18 years and four months will not need to self-isolate.
 - All close contacts will be advised to take a PCR test. For children under 5 you only need to do this if a member of your household has tested positive.
 - Individuals identified as close contact will not need to self-isolate while they are awaiting the results of their test.
 - If the PCR results is positive, the individual must isolate.
- Visitors will not be allowed in the preschool building, the gate to the preschool will be locked at all times and any visitors will need to ring the bell to get the attention of staff.
 - When possible, all doors and windows will be open to allow air to circulate freely through the building.
 - Staff will follow a strict cleaning routine, as set out in the Covid19 risk assessment.

Contingency plan/Outbreak management

If there is an outbreak in our setting or the local area we will follow the advice from the Local authority, director of public health (Dsph) and PHE health protection team (HPT).

To help minimise disruption where possible:

- We will remain open staying within the adult/child ratio's set out in the Early Years Foundation Stage, statutory guidance. If we have a low number of staff, children whose parents are key workers and vulnerable children will be offered spaces as a priority.
- We will provide activities and videos for home learning on the FAMILY app.
- Families will be contacted on a weekly basis by the manager or deputy manager to offer support.