

Little Angels Pre-School

Covid-19 Policy



Aim

The safety of children and staff is our top priority. The pre-school have worked hard, following the latest government guidance, to develop and implement a number of new ways of operating. These will allow us to open as safely as possible, focusing on measures that will help limit the risk of Covid-19 transmitting within our setting. The aim of this Policy is to set out the steps the pre-school will take to ensure the safety of all children, parents and staff.

Drop Off and Collection Procedure

Staggered drop off and collection times are used as much as possible to promote social distancing. If parents need talk to a member of staff for any reason they need to either ring or book a time to talk outdoors. We will be using Family App to relay necessary information and messages about to parents throughout the day.

There are, however, times where we have had to double up drop off and collection times. As the path on the way up to the door is too narrow to observe social distancing rules, only one parent will be allowed on the path up to the door at a time. This will be clearly marked with signs. If parents are driving, they must remain in their vehicle until the path is clear. If parents are on foot, they must use the pedestrian gate next to the main driveway and wait at the end of the grey railing until the path is clear. Only one adult per household will be allowed to approach the door and no adults or siblings will be allowed in the setting at any point.

Items to Bring

In order to reduce the risk of transmitting the virus, the pre-school are limiting the amount of items being brought into the setting. Only the following items will be allowed:

- A lunchbox
- A water bottle to take outside.
- Spare clothes in a bag.
- Nappies (if required).
- Sun cream and a hat, or a waterproof coat.

NO TOYS FROM HOME WILL BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE SETTING.

Date of Issue: March 2020

Hygiene Measures

Every effort will be made to keep children as safe as possible during their time at pre-school. Due to the age of the children, it is not possible to abide by social distancing rules. Although we will be splitting the children into smaller groups for activities, they will be playing side by side with others.

Hand washing routines will remain in place. Children and staff must wash their hands with soap and water at the start and end of each session, after using the toilets, before food and after messy play activities. Posters will be used at handwashing stations as a visual reminder to children and children will be supervised during handwashing by a member of staff.

The pre-school will also be continuing to promote respiratory hygiene with catch it, bin it, kill it. Tissues and bins are readily accessible and children will be encouraged to use these or to cover their mouths with their hand and then wash their hands immediately.

Other Measures

Studies have shown that the risk of transmission is much lower outdoors so children will be spending as much of the day outdoors as possible. The pre-school have access to a secure playground and grassed area that is separate from the rest of the school. There is also a sheltered playground area so, provided that it is not torrential, children will still be outdoors if it rains. Parents must make sure they provide suitable outdoor clothing including sun hats or raincoats, and suitable footwear. Parents must also apply or bring sun cream.

When children are indoors, mostly during snack and lunchtimes, all windows will be open to allow ventilation of the room.

All soft furnishings and toys that are not easily cleanable will be removed from pre-school. All toys, surfaces, tables and toilet areas will be cleaned and disinfected regularly, for some items this will be up to several times a day.

Following advice from the Government and Public Health England, staff go home each day and remove their uniform immediately putting it straight into the washing machine. They then shower before having any physical contact with the rest of their families. They wear a fresh set of clothes to pre-school each day. As far as possible, we recommend that children do the same.

Date of Issue: March 2020

What to do if a child has symptoms

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste

If a child or anyone in the household displays symptoms, parents **must not** send that child to pre-school.

Anyone who begins to display coronavirus symptoms while in the setting will be sent home immediately following government guidelines. If a child is waiting to be collected, they will be separated from the group and isolated with one member of staff. The child or staff member and all members of their household will then have to self-isolate for 14 days.

A facemask will be worn by that member of staff if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained from a child who is symptomatic and awaiting collection and if contact is necessary, then gloves, an apron and a facemask will be worn.

Once the child or member of staff has left the setting, the rest of the children will remain outside while a deep clean is undertaken to ensure all areas are disinfected.

Once early years and childcare providers open to more children, all staff and children who are attending a childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario. Where the child or staff member tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation. If the child or staff member tests positive, the pre-school will close for 14 days and all children and staff are advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of those advised to self-isolate do not need to self-isolate unless the child or staff member they live with subsequently develops symptoms.

Parents have been asked to ensure that emergency contacts are updated and to consider where these may need to change, for example if previous emergency contacts are in a shielded group. In the event that the setting needs to close, parents will be notified by phone at the earliest opportunity.