Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Health

3.51 Providers must promote the good health, of the children they look after.

3.52 They must have a procedure, discussed with parents and/or carers, for responding to children who are ill or infectious, take necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection.

PLANNING FOR A PANDEMIC/EPIDEMIC

The decision to close the setting may be made by the manager, Whitkirk Primary School or on Government advice. This may be due to the number of staff or children who are ill or due to the risk of spreading infections further.

To minimise the spread of infection and enable the pre-school to remain open as long as possible, we will take the following precautions:

* Relevant risk assessments will be carried out and will take direction from Government guidance and in line with Whitkirk Primary Procedures. Risk assessments will be implemented as a working document and reviewed regularly.
* Staff or children showing virus like symptoms will not attend work and go home if they become.
* A sick child will be separated from other children and the parent/carer asked to collect the child as soon as possible. Child to be supervised by adult using PPE (apron, gloves, mask) where 2m distance is not possible.
* Visitors to the setting will be restricted during the pandemic
* Good hygiene practices will be followed regarding hand washing and disposal of bodily fluids, tissues and nappies. Hands are to be washed routinely through the day, before and after meals, on arrival and departure of the setting, when coughing or blowing nose. ‘Catch it, Bin it, Kill it’ will be promoted in the setting.
* With regard to food preparation and cleaning the pre-school environment. Surfaces and touch points will be wiped down with anti-bacterial wipes regularly through the day and when transitioning to different areas.
* Some activities may be suspended e.g. sand, water and playdough.
* If a member or family member of anyone attending pre-school is confirmed to have the virus the child or staff member may be asked to self-isolate.

Where closures apply and funding still available, staff will be paid in full. This is dependent on advice from the Government and/or the setting remaining financially viable.

Where staff self isolate due to Government guidance staff will be paid SSP.

When attendance to the setting is not possible due to closures or self isolating, children’s fees will be refunded or credited for the next term.

Where the setting is open and families do not attend, fees may be waived at the discretion of the committee.

Up to date contact details relating to staff and parents will be kept in order to notify them of closure and re-opening dates.

Information about absence rates will be made available to the Local Education Authority.

The Department of Health and Department of Education will be consulted with regard to progress of the pandemic.

Any closures that are needed to stop the spread of a virus will be communicated to Oftsed within 14 days.

This policy was signed on behalf of the preschool – T Pattison (Preschool Manager)