

# St Marychurch Pre-school

## Managing children with illnesses or who are sick or infectious policy (including reporting notifiable diseases) Policy.

### Statement of intent

St Marychurch Pre-school provides care for all children and promotes health through identifying and preventing contact with allergenic substance and through preventing cross infection of viruses and bacterial infections.

### Aim

We aim to promote healthy practices by adults and children at the pre-school and take steps to take care for children with illnesses, sickness or infectious.

### Methods

#### Children with allergies

Parents are asked to record any know allergies suffered by their child on the registration form.

- If a child has an allergy, a risk assessment form is completed to detail the following: The allergen (e.g. the substance, a material or living creature the child is allergic to such as nuts, eggs, bee stings, cats and so on).
- The nature of the allergic reactions e.g. anaphylactic shock reaction, including rash, reddening of skin, swelling, breathing problems etc.
- What to do in case of allergic reactions, any medication used and how it is to be used (e.g. EpiPen).
- Control measures – such as how the child can be prevented from contact with the allergen.
- Review.
- This form is kept in the child's personal file and details noted where the practitioners can see it.
- Parents train practitioners in how to administer special medication in the event of an allergic reaction.
- If necessary the manager will seek further medical training from South Devon Healthcare.
- Generally, no nuts or nut products are used within the setting.
- Parents are made aware so that no nut or nut products are accidentally brought in, for example to a party or in a child's lunch box.

#### Oral Medication

St. Marychurch Pre-school will only administer prescribed medicines. Calpol will **not be** administered by a practitioner to a child who has an everyday infection, cough or cold or aches and pains. Where a child requires a prescription painkiller due to an on-going medical condition, St Marychurch Pre-school will review the policy.

- Asthma inhalers are now regarded as "oral medication".
- Oral medications must be prescribed by a GP.
- There must be clear written instructions on the dosage.
- All risk assessment procedures need to be adhered to for the correct storage and administration of the medication.
- When practitioners administer prescribed medicine to a child, it is witnessed by another practitioner who checks the name and dose against the information provided by the parents in the medication book
- At the end of each session the parents sign that they have been informed that the medicine has been administered. (See Administering medicines policy).

Parents and practitioners must sign the medication book at the start of that the child requires medicine.

## **Sickness**

Our policy for the exclusion of ill or infectious children is discussed with parents. This includes procedures for contacting parents – or other authorised adults – if a child becomes ill while in the setting.

- We do not provide care for children who are unwell, have a temperature, or sickness and diarrhoea, or who have an infectious disease and can refuse admittance.
- If children appear unwell during the day – have a temperature, sickness, diarrhoea or pains, particularly in the head or stomach – the Pre-school manager or deputy will contact the parents and asks them to collect the child, or send a known carer to collect on their behalf. A child's temperature will be taken using an ear thermometer and an adult will ask the child for permission and talk them through the process. A high temperature in a child is 38C.
- If a child has a temperature we will contact the parents and follow the medical advice outlined on the Public Health England (Infectious Diseases) Regulations or phone 111. Provide food and drink and look out for signs of dehydration.
- In extreme cases of emergency a practitioner will phone for an ambulance and the parent informed.
- Parents are asked to take their child to the doctor before returning them to pre-school.
- Where children have been prescribed antibiotics, parents are asked to keep them at home for 48 hours before returning to the setting.
- After sickness or diarrhoea, parents are asked to keep children home for 48 hours after the last bout of sickness or until a formed stool is passed. Should there be an outbreak such as Norovirus, food poisoning, sickness and diarrhoea then the setting may have to close following Public Health England guidance.

## **Nits and Head lice**

Children with nits and head lice are not excluded but must be treated to remedy the condition, although in exceptional cases the pre-school may ask a parent to keep the child away until the infestation has cleared.

- Parents are notified if there is a case of head lice in the setting.
- On identifying cases of head lice, all parents are informed and asked to treat their child and all the family if they are found to have head lice.

## **Illness**

- Parents are asked to inform the pre-school if their child has any illness such as measles or chicken pox, as the other pre-school parents will need to be informed.
- Parents are notified if there is an infectious disease, such as chickenpox. We refer to the Public Health England information and to Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Setting (DfES 2005). The setting has a list of excludable diseases and current exclusion times, it includes common childhood illnesses such as measles and chicken pox.

## **Reporting of 'notifiable diseases'**

If a child or adult is diagnosed suffering from a notifiable disease under the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1988, the GP will report this to the Public Health England agency.

When the setting becomes aware, or is formally informed of the notifiable disease, the pre-school manager/supervisor will inform Ofsted and ensure that the setting acts on any advice given by the Public Health England agency.

- If a child is prescribed antibiotics for a contagious infection such as conjunctivitis, impetigo, throat infection etc, we request that parents keep the child at home until the antibiotic course has finished. If in doubt parents are asked to check with their G.P

- Managing children with illness policy continued.....
- If a child has a fever they cannot return to the setting until 24 hours after the fever has broken. Should your child continue to have any symptoms, following the fever, then they must not attend the setting until they are fit and well.
- Should your child have Scarlet Fever then they may return to the setting 24 hours after they start antibiotics. However, if antibiotics are not given to the child the setting will exclude your child for 3 weeks from the diagnosis of Scarlet Fever from a medical professional.

**HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus)**

- HIV may affect children or families attending the setting. Practitioners may or may not be informed about it.
- Children or families are not excluded because of HIV.
- Good hygiene practice concerning the clearing of any spilled or bodily fluids is carried out at all times, as with other viruses such as Hepatitis, (A, B and C) that are spread through body fluids.
- Single use vinyl gloves and aprons are worn when changing children’s nappies, pants and clothing that are soiled with blood, urine, faeces or vomit.
- Protective rubber gloves are used for cleaning/sluicing clothing after changing.
- Soiled clothing is rinsed and bagged for parents to collect.
- Spills of blood, urine, faeces or vomit are cleared using mild disinfectant solution and mops; cloths used are disposed of.
- Tables and other furniture, furnishings or toys affected by blood, urine, faeces or vomit are cleaned using a disinfectant.
- Practitioners suffering from sickness and diarrhoea do not handle food.
- OFSTED is notified of any infectious disease that a qualified medical person considers notifiable and if we have two or more cases of illness these will be reported with 14 days.

**Life saving medication & invasive treatments**

Adrenaline injections (Epipens) for anaphylactic shock reactions (caused by allergies to nuts, eggs and so on).

In order to administer an invasive treatment to a child, St Marychurch Pre-school require:

- a letter from the child's GP/consultant stating the child's condition and what medication if any is to be administered;
- written consent from the parent or guardian allowing staff to administer medication; and proof of training in the administration of such medication by the child's GP, a district nurse, children’s’ nurse specialist or a community paediatric nurse.

Copies of all three letters relating to the administration of an invasive treatment must be sent to the company insuring St Marychurch Pre-school. At present this is Pre-school Learning Alliance Insurance Department.

Signed.....

Position.....

Dated.....

We aim to provide a safe, stimulating, caring, happy Pre-school where all children and their families are welcome. We provide a curriculum based on the Early Years Foundation Stage using individual children’s interest and needs.