Covid19 Policy and Procedures

The aim of this policy is to set out the measures in place to minimise the spread of coronavirus and to protect staff and children at Playgroup.

* **Any** member of staff, child or visitor are not permitted to enter playgroup if they are displaying **any** symptoms of coronavirus (COVID 19). You are advised to stay at home and avoid contact with others for at least three full days and no longer has a temperature.

**Playgroup’s control measures:**

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone.

2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes, using standard products such as detergents.

3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.

4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

**Respiratory hygiene**

The ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach continues to be very important.

**Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19**

When an individual develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test.

Children, staff and other adults should follow guidance on People with COVID-19 and their contacts if they have COVID-19 symptoms. Children and staff, including children aged 0 to 4 years, should return to the setting as soon as they can, in line with guidance for People with COVID-19 and their contacts.

Children with the key symptoms of COVID-19 should not attend Playgroup, given the potential risk to others. If a parent or carer insists on a child attending playgroup when they have a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19, we will refuse the child admittance if, in our reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other children and staff from possible infection with COVID-19.

**Asymptomatic testing**

From 21 February 2022, staff in early years settings will not be expected to continue taking part in regular asymptomatic testing and should follow asymptomatic testing advice for the general population. Further information is available in the Managing Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Education and Childcare Settings guidance. In the event of an outbreak, Playgroup may also be advised by our local health team or Director of Public Health (DPH) to increase testing for a period of time.

**Prioritising early years places**

If high levels of workforce absence mean we need to restrict attendance (for example, where a setting is oversubscribed, or unable to operate at full capacity) playgroup will give priority to:

• children of critical workers, and vulnerable children – some children may be vulnerable who are not officially in statutory systems, and we will seek to support any children who we believe may have challenging circumstances at home

• then 3- and 4-year-olds, in particular those who will be transitioning to Reception

• followed by younger age groups.

**For children absent due to isolation playgroup will direct parents and carers to:**

• Hungry Little Minds – provides simple fun, activities for kids aged 0 to 5 for parents to do at home with children to support their early learning

• BBC Tiny Happy People – activities for babies, toddlers and children

• Words for Life

• Help children aged 2 to 4 to learn at home: coronavirus (COVID-19

**Children’s wellbeing and support**

Some children may be experiencing a variety of emotions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as anxiety, stress, or low mood. You can access useful links and resources of support on the MindED learning platform for professionals.

**Vulnerable children**

Where children who are self-isolating are within our definition of vulnerable, we will put systems in place to keep in contact with them, particularly if they have a social worker. Some children may be vulnerable who are not officially in statutory systems, and we will seek to support any children who we believe may have challenging circumstances at home.

When a vulnerable child is self-isolating, we will:

• notify their social worker (if they have one)

• agree with the social worker, the best way to maintain contact and offer support.

**What will happen if your child becomes unwell whilst at Playgroup.**

You will be called to collect your child. All areas and resources will be cleaned thoroughly. Parents will be advised of any positive cases of Covid 19 at Playgroup.