King Square Community Nursery

Sick Children

Policy Statement

We promote the good health of all children attending the setting and take positive steps to prevent the spread of infection and illness. We provide care for healthy children through preventing cross infection of viruses and bacterial infections and promote health through identifying allergies and preventing contact with allergenic substances.

We follow current guidance from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), Ofsted and local health protection procedures. Good hygiene practices are promoted at all times to minimise the risk of infection and to support children's health and wellbeing.

Procedures for Children who are Sick or Infectious

- If children appear unwell during the day, for example if they have a temperature, sickness, diarrhoea (more than three times in one day), difficulty breathing, rash, unusual tiredness or pains particularly in the head or stomach, a member of staff will contact the parents/carers. Parents/carers will be asked to collect their child promptly, or arrange for a known authorised adult to collect them.
- Whilst awaiting collection, the child will be cared for in a quiet, comfortable area and will be reassured and supervised at all times.
- If a child has a temperature, staff will ensure the child is kept cool by removing excess clothing and encouraging fluids where appropriate, whilst ensuring the child remains comfortable and supervised.
- The child's temperature may be monitored regularly using a suitable thermometer in line with hygiene procedures.
- Staff will not administer medication, including Calpol or other analgesics, unless prior written consent has been obtained and administration is in line with the setting's Administering Medication Policy. In emergency circumstances verbal consent may be sought where possible and recorded.
- In extreme emergencies, an ambulance will be called immediately and parents/carers informed as soon as possible.
- Parents/carers may be asked to seek medical advice from a GP before the child returns to the setting.
- The setting reserves the right to refuse admittance to children who are unwell or who may pose a risk of infection to others.

- Children who have had three episodes or more of sickness or diarrhoea must remain absent from the setting for at least 48 hours following the last episode.
- If your child requires Calpol before attending nursery, please keep them at home. This indicates that they may be unwell and are not well enough to attend nursery. Children should only return when they are well enough to participate comfortably in their usual daily activities.
- Where children have been prescribed antibiotics for an infectious illness, parents/carers are encouraged to keep them at home for the first 48 hours, or until they are well enough to return.
- Some activities such as sand play, water play, cooking activities and self-service snack routines may be temporarily suspended during outbreaks of infectious illness to reduce cross-contamination.
- Enhanced cleaning procedures will be implemented during any outbreak of infectious disease.
- Parents/Carers will be notified via text or email regarding an outbreak of infectious diseases.
- Staff and children are encouraged to follow good hygiene practices, including regular handwashing, covering coughs and sneezes, and safe disposal of tissues using the "catch it, bin it, kill it" approach.
- The setting maintains an up-to-date list of excludable diseases and exclusion periods in line with current UKHSA guidance.

Reporting of Notifiable Diseases

- If a child or staff member is diagnosed with a notifiable disease under the Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010, parents will be informed by the nursery via text message or email as soon as the nursery becomes aware of the diagnosis.
- When the nursery becomes aware of a notifiable disease, the Manager/Designated Person will inform Ofsted where required and contact the local Health Protection Team for guidance.
- The nursery will fully cooperate with health protection procedures and follow any advice issued regarding exclusion periods, cleaning procedures or outbreak management.

Infection Control and Hygiene Procedures

To minimise the spread of infection, staff will:

- Wear disposable gloves and aprons when dealing with bodily fluids including blood, urine, faeces or vomit.

- Wash hands thoroughly before and after handling food, administering medication, supporting toileting, changing nappies and dealing with bodily fluids.
- Ensure all spills of bodily fluids are cleaned immediately using appropriate cleaning products and disposed of safely.
- Clean and disinfect toys, resources, tables and surfaces regularly and more frequently during periods of illness outbreaks.
- Safely bag and return soiled clothing to parents/carers.
- Follow the setting's nappy changing and toileting procedures at all times.
- Ensure that children do not share personal items such as toothbrushes, cups or flannels.
- Dispose of clinical waste safely and appropriately.

HIV/AIDS/Hepatitis Procedure

HIV and Hepatitis viruses, like other infections, can be spread through body fluids. Hygiene precautions for dealing with body fluids are the same for all children and adults.

We:

- Wear disposable gloves and aprons when changing nappies or handling soiled clothing.
- Bag soiled clothing securely for parents/carers to take home.
- Clean spills of blood, urine, faeces or vomit immediately using approved disinfectant products.
- Clean and disinfect any affected furniture, toys or equipment.
- Follow strict hygiene and infection control procedures at all times.

Confidentiality regarding any child or adult with HIV, AIDS or Hepatitis will be maintained in line with data protection and confidentiality procedures.

Head Lice

- Head lice are not an excludable condition.
- Parents/carers will be informed if head lice are identified so that treatment can begin promptly.
- In exceptional circumstances where infestation is persistent and causing discomfort, parents/carers may be asked to keep the child at home until treatment has been completed.

Procedures for Children with Allergies

- When children start at the setting, parents/carers are asked to provide information regarding any known allergies or medical conditions. This information is recorded on registration documents.
- If a child has an allergy, a risk assessment and individual healthcare plan will be completed detailing:
    - The allergen.
    - The nature of the allergic reaction.
    - Signs and symptoms to monitor.
    - Emergency procedures.
    - Medication required and instructions for administration.
    - Control measures to minimise exposure.
    - Review arrangements.
- Allergy information is shared with relevant staff whilst maintaining confidentiality.
- Staff receive appropriate training in recognising allergic reactions and administering emergency medication such as adrenaline auto-injectors (EpiPens).
- Medication for allergies is stored safely but remains easily accessible in an emergency.
- Parents/carers are responsible for ensuring medication is in date and replaced when necessary.
- The setting will take all reasonable steps to reduce exposure to allergens and support children with allergies safely.
- The setting aims to be a nut-aware environment and parents/carers are asked not to bring nut products into the setting wherever possible.
- Allergy information may be displayed discreetly in food preparation and play areas where necessary to safeguard children.

Insurance Requirements for Children with Allergies and Medical Conditions

- The setting ensures that all arrangements for children with medical needs comply with the Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).
- Where required, the setting will notify its insurance provider regarding children with significant medical conditions, allergies or disabilities.
- Appropriate written permissions, healthcare plans, risk assessments and staff training records will be maintained.

Oral Medication

- Prescription medication will only be administered where it has been prescribed by a doctor, dentist, nurse or pharmacist with the child name clearly labelled.
- Non-prescription medication will only be administered in exceptional circumstances and with prior written parental consent, in line with the setting's medication policy.
- Medication must be clearly labelled with the child's name, dosage and administration instructions.
- Written consent from parents/carers is required before medication can be administered.
- Records of all medication administered will be maintained and signed by staff and parents/carers.
- Asthma inhalers are stored accessibly and staff are aware of children's asthma care plans.

Life-Saving Medication and Invasive Treatments

These may include adrenaline auto-injectors (EpiPens), asthma inhalers or other emergency medication.

The setting will ensure:

- A letter or healthcare plan from the child's GP/consultant is obtained where appropriate.
- Written parental consent is in place.
- Staff receive appropriate training before administering specialist medication or treatment.
- Emergency medication is readily accessible at all times and never locked away.
- Individual healthcare plans and risk assessments are reviewed regularly and shared with relevant staff.
- Appropriate insurance requirements are met where necessary.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or earlier if legislation, guidance or operational procedures change. Staff will receive ongoing training and updates to ensure safe practice is maintained at all times.

This policy was adopted by	King Square Community Nursery	
On	14 May 2026	
Date to be reviewed	14 May 2027	
Signed on behalf of the provider		
Name of signatory	Jackie Morgan	Lisa Bassett
Role of signatory	Manager	Chair