

***Holy Cross Nursery School***

**COVID-19 Isolation Policy**

Self isolation is about protecting others and slowing down the spread of Covid-19.

In practical terms, self isolation means that children, staff and parents must:

* Stat at home
* Not to go work or school
* Not use public transport
* Avoid visitors to the home
* Ask friends or family members to carry out errands such as groceries or medication

**What are the Main Symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in children?**

Coronavirus can cause:

* A high temperature
* A new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually suffer a cough, it may be worse than usual)
* A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste differently to normal.

**What to do if your child has symptoms:**

If a child has any symptoms of Covid-19 before coming to school they must remain at home. This keeps your child away from other germs. It also helps prevent your child from spreading the illness to others. If a doctor thinks your child might have Coronavirus, the whole family will need to stay home and self isolate for 14 days. Parents must:

* Stay at home (self isolate) do not leave the home or have visitors. Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, must also self isolate
* Notify the principal as soon as possible
* Get a test to check if you have covid-19 as soon as possible. Anyone you live with , and anyone in your support bubble, should get a test if they have symptoms

Use the NHS 111 online coronavirus service if:

* If you are worried about symptoms
* You’re not sure what to do

Parents must notify the school if their child is presenting with symptoms, and keep the school informed if there are any confirmed positive tests of COVID-19 in the household. If someone in the household has tested positive, anyone living in the home must self-isolate for 14 days.

If no-one in the home is neither symptomatic nor tested positive for COVID-19, children can return to school 48 hours after symptoms.

**What if my child presents with symptoms whilst in school?**

When children come into school in the morning they will have their temperature checked by a member of staff. This will not necessarily be done every morning, but enough for children to be familiar with a non-touch thermometer. It will also not be intrusive to the child and will be carried out in a fun manner.

A normal temperature in babies and children is about 36.4C, but this can vary slightly from child to child. A high temperature is 38C or more.

If throughout the school day, a child becomes unwell with a persistent cough and/or a high temperature of 38C, parents will be contacted immediately and the child will be isolated from other children and staff as a precaution. The effective pastoral care in Holy Cross Nursery ensures all children will be cared for and protected. Children who are unwell will be given the appropriate level of care and attention so they continue to feel safe and secure.

A facemask and gloves should be worn by the member of staff isolating with the child who is symptomatic and awaiting collection. If a risk assessment determines there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, for example from coughing or spitting, then eye protection/visor should also be worn.

Once the child or member of staff has left the setting, staff should ensure rigorous cleaning is undertaken to ensure areas they have been in are disinfected and any PPE and other waste is disposed of safely.

Where a 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 rest of their immediate bubble within the nursery should be sent home and advised to get a test.

In some cases a larger group may be asked to self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure.

If we are observing guidance on infection prevention and control, which will reduce risk of transmission, closure of the whole setting may not generally be necessary.

Emergency contacts must be updated regularly.

The school will communicate the protocol to parents and carers and ensure they understand their role and they MUST be available to collect their child if necessary.

Parents will sign a COVID-19 Parental Agreement at the start of the year, which respects the policy and procedure of Holy Cross Nursery School.