



# Infection Control Policy

## Grass Roots Nursery Group: Infection Control Policy

### Purpose

To establish procedures for preventing and managing the spread of infections at Grass Roots Nursery Group, ensuring the health and well-being of children and staff in accordance with the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework 2025 and the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.

### Statutory Compliance and Legislation

This policy is guided by and complies with the following:

- **EYFS Statutory Framework (2025):** Specifically the "Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements" regarding health, medicine administration, and intimate hygiene.
- **Health and Safety at Work Act 1974:** Duties to protect employees and children from workplace hazards.
- **Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) 2002:** Ensuring cleaning chemicals and biological hazards (infections) are managed safely.
- **Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 2013:** Reporting of specific notifiable diseases to the HSE.

### Hygiene and Sanitation

- **Handwashing:** Promote the 7-step handwashing technique using warm running water and liquid soap. Hands must be washed after using the toilet, nappy changes, handling animals, and before eating.
- **Cleaning and Disinfection:** Follow a written schedule for regular cleaning of toys, sand, and high-touch surfaces. Use a detergent solution followed by a disinfectant (e.g., bleach/hypochlorite solution) for deep cleaning.
- **Waste Management:** Dispose of nappies in individual sacks within a foot-operated lidded bin. Clinical waste must be disposed of according to local environmental requirements.
- **Respiratory Hygiene:** Promote the "Catch it, Bin it, Kill it" approach to reduce the spread of airborne infections.

### Illness Management and Reporting

- **Exclusion Policy:** In line with UKHSA guidance, children and staff with diarrhoea or vomiting must be excluded for 48 hours after their last episode.
- **Notifiable Diseases:** The nursery will inform Ofsted and the local Health Protection Team (HPT) of any serious illnesses, hospitalisations, or outbreaks (2 or more cases of the same illness in one group).
- **Immunisation:** We actively promote child and staff immunisation (e.g., MMR, Flu) as the best way to prevent infectious diseases.
- **Vulnerable Individuals:** Specific risk assessments will be conducted for pregnant staff or immunosuppressed individuals who may be at higher risk from certain infections like chickenpox or rubella.

### Staff Training and PPE

- **PPE Requirements:** Staff must wear disposable aprons and gloves for all nappy changes, serving food and when cleaning up bodily fluid spillages.
- **Spillage Procedure:** Treat all bodily fluids as potentially infectious. Use paper towels to absorb spills and apply appropriate disinfectant; never use mops for blood or vomit.
- **Training:** All staff receive infection control and COSHH training during induction, with annual refreshers to ensure they remain knowledgeable about EYFS changes.

#### **Additional Considerations**

- **Intimate Hygiene:** We follow the EYFS 2025 updates regarding toilets and intimate hygiene, ensuring children's privacy while maintaining high sanitation standards.
- **Sun Safety:** During hot weather, staff will apply sunscreen (minimum SPF 30 with 4\* UVA rating) every 2 hours and ensure children stay hydrated.
- **Ventilation:** Maintain adequate ventilation to reduce the spread of respiratory infections, particularly during winter.