

# Immunisations Policy



## Grass Roots Nursery Group: Immunisation Policy

### Purpose

This policy establishes guidelines for immunisations at Grass Roots Nursery Group to promote the health of children and staff. It aligns with the updated 2026 UK routine childhood immunisation schedule to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, including chickenpox, while respecting parental choice.

### Key Principles

- **Health and Well-being:** Prioritising the safety of all children and staff.
- **Disease Prevention:** Strongly advocating for immunisation, including the new varicella (chickenpox) component, as the primary prevention method.
- **Confidentiality:** Maintaining all records securely and privately.
- **Non-Discrimination:** No discrimination against unvaccinated children.

### Updated Immunisation Schedule (Effective Jan 2026)

We encourage parents to follow the latest UKHSA schedule. Key changes for nursery-aged children include:

- **12 Months:** First dose of the combined MMRV vaccine (protecting against Measles, Mumps, Rubella, and Varicella/Chickenpox) for children born on or after 1 January 2025.
- **18 Months (New Appointment):** A newly introduced routine visit for children born on or after 1 July 2024. This includes:
  - 4th dose of the 6-in-1 vaccine (Hib booster).
  - 2nd dose of the MMRV vaccine (moved earlier from 3 years 4 months to improve early protection).
- **3 Years 4 Months:**
  - 4-in-1 pre-school booster (Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, and polio).
  - MMRV dose for children born between 1 September 2022 and 31 December 2024 (who did not receive the 18-month MMRV).
- **Annual Flu Vaccine:** Recommended every autumn for all children aged 2 years and over.

### Communication and Parental Choice

- **Informed Decisions:** We respect the right of parents to make informed decisions but provide the latest NHS guidance to ensure these choices are well-informed.
- **Chickenpox Spots:** Following the new MMRV vaccine, some children may develop a few chickenpox-like spots at the injection site. As long as these spots are covered, children can attend the nursery as normal.

- **Unvaccinated Children:** Parents choosing not to vaccinate must complete a Declaration Form. This form acknowledges the decision and the understanding that other parents may become aware of the child's status if an outbreak occurs.

Reference: For the full schedule and clinical details, visit the [NHS Vaccinations page](#).