**Castlemilk Day Nursery**

**Unwell Child Policy**

We recognise our responsibility to promote a learning environment that is safe and healthy for all. In order to maintain a clean and healthy environment this policy provides guidance for staff and parents as to when children should or should not be in the childcare setting if showing signs of sickness or not wanting to engage in any play experiences, due to feeling unwell.

The health and wellbeing of all children is of paramount importance to enable them to be successful learners in everything they do.

The purpose of this policy is to:

* To ensure that sick children are appropriately and correctly identified.
* To ensure sick children are cared for appropriately.
* To protect children and adults from preventable infection.
* To enable staff and parents to be clear about the requirements and procedures when children are unwell.

Guidance:

Children should not be brought into the childcare setting if they are displaying signs of illness.

If parents have administered Calpol/paracetamol to their child on the morning of nursery, we would advise for your child to be kept at home, as medicine can mask symptoms of being unwell resulting in the child becoming unwell later on in day.

Parents are responsible for keeping the nursery informed about their child’s health.

If parents do bring children to nursery and staff feel that they are unfit to be here, parents / carers / emergency contacts will be contacted and requested to come and collect their child and requested not to return to nursery until symptom-free.

We understand the needs of working parents and do not aim to exclude children from nursery unnecessarily. However, the decision of the nursery is final when requesting that a child is collected due to illness or infection. Decisions will take into account the needs of the child and those of the other children and staff in school.

Children with infectious or contagious diseases will not be permitted to attend for certain periods. If staff suspect that a child has an infectious or contagious disease, they will request that parents / carers consult a doctor before returning the child to the setting.

Exclusion period of contagious diseases: (as advised by Health Protection Scotland)

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| **Infection or complaint:** | **Exclusion period:** |
| Chicken pox | Until all vesicles have crusted over |
| German Measles/Measles | 4 days from the onset |
| Impetigo | Until lesions are crusted and healed OR 48 hours after starting antibiotic treatment. |
| Scabies | Child can return after first treatment |
| Scarlet fever | Child can return 24 hours after starting appropriate treatment |
| Shingles | Only if rash is weeping and cannot be covered |
| Diarrhoea and/or vomiting | 48 hours from the last bout of diarrhoea or vomiting. |
| Mumps | 5 days after onset on swelling |
| Meningitis | Until recovered |
| Flu | Until recovered |

Child becoming unwell at nursery:

* The child will be seen by a qualified first aider as the condition of the child needs to be assessed. Care plan followed if relevant. This will be done in a kind and caring manner. The child may be distressed, so it is important to be calm and reassuring. A senior manager will be informed of any sick children, and will also make descion to send child home.
* The situation is monitored closely, where staff will check reguraly on the child and feel if child is hot to touch.
* The child’s parent/carer is informed of the situation with decision made regarding the child. On some ocassions we agree to monitor the situation and if the child’s condition does not improve then a phone call will be made.
* If the child’s condition is not improving or the child is not getting better a member of staff will contact the parent / carer / emergency contact requesting that the child is collected as soon as possible.
* Whilst awaiting the arrival of parents, the staff will ensure the comfort of the child, taking appropriate action, which would include seeking medical advice if necessary.
* If the child is in danger, the staff will seek medical advice immediately. Staff will report any worries about a child’s health to the parents/carers immediately.

Symptoms requiring removal of child from school:

* **Fever:** Fever is defined as having a temperature of 38C or above in child under 5 (a child needs to be fever-free for a minimum of 24 hours before returning to school, that means the child is fever-free without the aid of any other fever reducing substance.
* Fever AND sore throat,Rash, Irritability or confusion.
* Diarrhoea: runny, watery, bloody stools, or 2 or more loose stools within last 4 hours.
* Vomiting: 2 or more times in a 24-hour period. Note: please do not bring your child if they have vomited in the night.
* Breathing trouble: sore throat, swollen glands, loss of voice, hacking or continuous coughing.
* Child is irritable, continuously crying, or requires more attention than we can provide without hurting the health, safety or well-being of the other children in our care.

Antibiotics:

If your child has be prescribed antibiotics your child will need to be absent from the setting for the first 24 hours of having taken the antibiotics, this is in case your child has a reaction to the antibiotic.

Coughs and colds:

Coughs and colds do not normally require the child to be absent from the setting, this however depends on the severity and how the child is able to cope with the nursery routine. If the child is unable to participate in the normal routine and regular day the child may be refused admission. A child who is or appears to be unwell may be refused admission.

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| This policy was rewritten in: | November 2024 |
| Date for review: | November 2025 |