

Health & Hygiene

Policy statement

We teach the children about health and hygiene to equip them with the skills, knowledge and understanding that will enable them to live a positive, successful and healthy life.

We teach children respect for their bodies, and how to look after themselves.

Parents will have the opportunity to discuss health issues with preschool staff and will have access to information available to the preschool.

The preschool will maintain links with health visitors and gather health information and advice from the local authority information services of other health agencies.

Procedures

To prevent the spread of infections, staff will ensure that the following practices are observed:

- Hands are washed after using the toilet.
- Boxes of tissues are available and the children are encouraged to blow and wipe their noses when necessary. Soiled tissues are disposed of hygienically.
- Children are encouraged to cover their mouth when coughing or to sneeze into their elbow.
- Children with pierced ears are not allowed to share earrings.
- Individual paper towels are used for drying hands and are disposed of appropriately.
- Hygiene rules related to bodily fluids are followed with particular care and all staff and volunteers are aware of how infections, including HIV infection, can be transmitted.
- Any spills of vomit, urine or excrement are disposed of hygienically.
- Any clothing with large spills of blood goes in the yellow bags which are then sealed and taken to the local GP surgery for incineration or put in the sanitary disposal.
- Spare, clean clothing is available in the case of accidents and bags available in which to wrap soiled garments.
- When clearing up spills of bodily fluids and when changing children's clothing, disposable gloves must always be worn.
- The floor and other surfaces will be disinfected appropriately.
- The school employs an independent cleaner that cleans the preschool at the end of the day.
- During in any outbreaks of infectious diseases, we will inform parents and follow the appropriate guidance from officials. This may include such procedures as the following but not limited to: parents not entering the preschool room, children washing their hands immediately when entering and before leaving, as well as regularly in their session time, staggering intake times so limited numbers in at one time.

We will adhere to all current legislation regarding food hygiene, registration and training. In particular, each adult will:

- Always wash hands before handling food and after using the toilet.
- Not to be involved with any food preparation if suffering from any infectious/contagious illness or skin trouble.
- Ensure they do not cough or sneeze over food.
- Use different cloths/brushes for cleaning different items (i.e. tables, washing up, paint pots).

- Prepare raw and cooked foods on separate boards.
- Keep food in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.

Occasionally we may invite people into the preschool to show animals to the children. Also, the preschool may over different terms may have such animals as, land snails, tadpoles, caterpillars etc. We will keep the children safe by:

- Ensuring that the person bringing the animal in is in full control of it always (this may be by keeping the animal in a cage/secure container or ensuring the animal remains on a leash).
- Discuss respect, safety and hygiene with the children before the animal is brought into a session.
- Ensure the children wash their hands both before and after touching the animal.

Epidemics, Pandemics, Endemics and Outbreaks

In the event of a national pandemic, epidemic or outbreak (as was seen in 2020 with the COVID-19 pandemic) we will follow all official guidance and policies from bodies such as Ofsted, undertake relevant risk assessments and comply with legislation as advised by the government at the time of any such circumstances.

The specific policy developed at the time has now been archived, but may be referred to if similar circumstances occur, in order to minimise transmission of any disease while continuing to provide education and childcare if any safe continuity of business is possible.

This policy was adopted by

Dragonflies Preschool

On

April 2025

Date to be reviewed

April 2026

Signed on behalf of the provider

Name of signatory

Role of signatory

Trustee