



# Staff & Parents : Day Nursery

## Illness at Nursery Policy

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### Page 1 of 2

Seahorse Nursery is committed to ensuring the good health of its pupils and employees. We strive to prevent the spread of infections by ensuring unwell children, who are potentially infectious, are not at nursery, the monitoring of routine immunisation and high standards of personal hygiene (through practice) e.g. hand washing and maintaining a clean environment.

Parents are requested not to send their children to nursery if they are unwell, i.e. not fit to enjoy nursery due to poor health and requiring 1:1 attention. Public Health England gives recommended periods of absence for specific illnesses and conditions; please refer to "Health Protection in Schools and other Childcare Facilities" (2019).

If a child requires prescribed medication, i.e. antibiotics, we will follow the medicine policy.

Pupils becoming ill whilst at Nursery will be cared for by practitioners until such time that a parent/emergency contact has been contacted and asked to collect their child (with the exception of a fever where there is the option for the nursery to administer Calpol).

Pupils who suffer a serious incident, accident or severe medical condition will be sent to a nearby hospital. Every effort will be made to contact the parents prior to such action. A member of staff will accompany the child to hospital if the emergency contact does not turn up before the ambulance leaves and will wait with the child at hospital until the emergency contact turns up. The Local Authority and Ofsted will be informed of any serious incident or accident.

For a child with an existing health plan, i.e. for life threatening allergies and chronic conditions, parents must share this with the Nursery and provide a medical bag with the necessary medication, i.e. adrenaline auto injectors, nebuliser. Guidance will be sought from the appropriate medical authorities regarding the administration of life saving medication such as insulin, adrenaline or nebulisers. All medication must be clearly labelled with the child's name, dosage and any instructions. It is the parents responsibility to ensure the medication is kept within its expiry date.

### Common illness/infection (with reference NHS guidance)

**Conjunctivitis:** your child may attend nursery. In severe cases or during an outbreak (3 or more children) we will ask you to keep your child at home.

**Diarrhoea and/or Vomiting:** if your child is identified to have diarrhoea and/or vomiting you will be asked to collect your child immediately to prevent spread of infection. Your child may not return to nursery until 48 hours after the last episode of Diarrhoea and/or Vomiting. Please note if your child has diarrhoea or vomits at the weekend the same 48-hour exclusion will apply, e.g. child vomits on Saturday night – child must not attend nursery on Monday. We refer to the Bristol Stool chart which provides a visual scale from normal to severe diarrhoea. While identifying diarrhoea and sickness we consider individual bowel movement patterns, diet, stage of weaning, if your child is taking medication, reflux, breast feeding, intolerances, allergies and other relevant information.

**Fever/High Temperature:** If the nursery team observes signs and symptoms that a child may have a fever, a practitioner will measure the child's temperature using an ear thermometer. If the child has a temperature between 38°C and 38.5°C the practitioner will inform a senior member of staff and take the following actions;

- Give plenty of fluids
- Ventilate the room
- Restrict outdoor play to minimise exposure to air temperature variation between inside and outside environment
- Log the child's temperature using an ear thermometer every 20 minutes.

If a child has a temperature of 38.5°C or above, the nursery will telephone those with parental responsibility.

**OPTION 1** – Child must be collected as they have a fever and are not well enough to remain at nursery

**OPTION 2** – The Nursery will administer a dose of infant paracetamol pain relief suspension and continue to monitor the child.



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---

Page 2 of 2

**To administer Infant Paracetamol Pain Relief Suspension (referred to as Calpol) the following steps must be followed:**

- A Permission form must have already been signed by the parents. Calpol administration is only an option if this form has been signed.
- Nursery will contact the parent to confirm whether the parent wishes the nursery to administer Calpol and confirm if they have given it previously in the last 3 days.
- If we cannot contact a parent, the Nursery will administer one dose of Calpol as agreed on the below Permission form. If a parent cannot be contacted, the Nursery will not give Calpol if a child has been at nursery for less than four hours in case the nursery has not been informed of a dosage given prior to arriving at Nursery.
- Once the dose of Calpol has been administered a medication form must be completed and upon collection signed by the parent.
- After 1 hour, the nursery will ring the parents and update them on their child's current state of health. If the child's health returns to normal they may stay at Nursery and no further action is required. If the child's temperature and symptoms of being unwell do not improve within one hour the child will need to be collected. The child will continue to be monitored for as long as their temperature stays above 38°C. The Nursery will not administer a second dose of Calpol on the same day.
- The Nursery will follow all manufacturers guidance in relation to administering Calpol

**Please note:** the Nursery will ask you to collect your child and call 111/take them to the GP if one of the following applies.

- If the child is under 3 months and has a temperature of 38C or higher
- If the child is 3 to 6 months old and has a temperature of 39C or higher
- If the temperature persists for more than 3 days
- If the child has other signs of illness, such as a rash, as well as a high temperature
- If the child does not want to eat, or is not their usual self and the Nursery is concerned for the child's well-being
- If the child is dehydrated – such as nappies that are not very wet, sunken eyes, and no tears when they're crying While awaiting collection the Nursery will administer infant paracetamol if permission has been given.

A child who is sent home with a temperature may return to Nursery the following day if they do not have a temperature and are fit, well and able to enjoy Nursery.

**Hand, foot and mouth:** your child may attend nursery if they are well. At managers discretion the nursery will administer Calpol, provided by the parents, to support the child's recovery from hand, foot and mouth. In severe cases or during an outbreak we will ask parents to keep their child at home during their recovery period to halt the spread of infection.

**Teething:** We accept all teething gels and granules – please refer to medication policy.

**Vaccinations:** Please inform the Nursery if your child has attended a vaccination so we can update their Health Declaration Form. We acknowledge that some vaccinations may cause various side effects including fevers up to 21 days afterwards.