**COOKSTOWN NURSERY SCHOOL**

**Exclusion Periods & Infection Control Policy**

Those children who present with having certain infectious disease/ illness should not come to school as this helps to prevent the spread of infection amongst the class.

***If your child is unwell please do not send him/her to school.***  It is up to you, not your child, to determine whether he/she is well enough to attend school or not. Experience has shown that children, who are unwell but say they want to come to school, are often overwhelmed when they arrive there. A child who is unwell will not learn effectively and will demand an undue amount of attention from staff which is unfair on the other children. If your child is unable to come to school please try to ring us in the morning to let us know.

In the event of a child becoming unwell, or having an accident in school, you will be contacted. For this reason, it is very important that changes of address and/or telephone numbers are provided to the school.

***Please note that we do not administer medicines to children****.* The exception to this is the use of an inhaler which may be necessary to control asthma or an Epi-pen in the case of a child having an allergic reaction. A normal antibiotic which has to be taken 4 times daily can be taken in the morning before school, at 1.15/1.30 pm when your child is collected, at teatime and bedtime. If you wish the medicine to be administered during school time you are welcome to come and give the medicine to your child yourself.

The table below provides guidance on appropriate exclusion periods for some common childhood infections.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ***Disease/illness*** | ***Exclusion period*** | ***Additional comment*** |
| Diarrhoea and/or vomiting | 48 hours from last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting |  |
| Chicken pox | For 5 days after rash appears |  |
| Conjunctivitis | None | Keeping children off school may be necessary to avoid cross infection within the group. |
| Hand, foot and mouth disease | None | Keeping children off school is necessary to avoid cross infection within the group. |
| Impetigo | Until lesions are crusted or healed/48 hour after starting anti biotic treatment. |  |
| Measles | For 5 days after rash appears | \*Risk to Vulnerable children & female staff (Pregnancy) See link below for advice |
| ***Disease/illness*** | ***Exclusion period*** | ***Additional comment*** |
| Mumps | For 5 days after onset of swollen glands |  |
| Ringworm | Not usually |  |
| Rubella (German measles) | For 4 days after the onset of the rash |  |
| Scarlet fever | For 24 hours after commencing antibiotics |  |
| Threadworms | None | Treatment is recommended for the child and family members |
| Whooping cough | For 48 hrs after commencing antibiotics or 21days from onset of illness if no antibiotic treatment |  |
| Flu (influenza) | Until recovered |  |
| Cold sores | None | Avoid contact with the sores |
| Slapped cheek/fifth disease/ Parvovirus | None-once rash has developed. | Keeping children off school may be necessary \*Risk to Vulnerable children & female staff-pregnancy. See link below for advice. |
| Shingles | Exclude only if rash is weeping and cannot be covered | Can cause chickenpox in those who are not immune ie have not had chicken pox. It is spread by very close contact and touch |
| Warts | None | Treatment/removal is preferable |
| Glandular fever | None | Keeping children off school may be necessary |
| Head lice | None | Treatment in cases where live lice have been found. Close contacts should be checked and treated if live lice are found. Regular detection (combing) should be carried out by parents. |
| Tonsillitis | None | Keeping children off school may be necessary |

**Cookstown Nursery School reserves the right to update this policy as deemed necessary.**

***Sources used – Further advice on any of the above can be found at***

[www.publichealth.hscni.net](http://www.publichealth.hscni.net) – Health Protection Agency and Department of Health (2017) *Guidance on infection control in school and nurseries*

***Addition to this policy in light of Covid-19***

***(updated September 2020)***

It has always been our policy that children who are feeling unwell with temperatures, colds, flu, vomiting, diarrhoea, sore throats etc should not be at school. Consequently, they should stay at home and only return to school when their symptoms have cleared. This policy has not changed and in fact it is more important than ever, now with Covid-19 to contend with. (We ask that parents use the table above as a point of reference if your child is unwell.)

We are maintaining our existing policy of exclusions and adding to that list, children who are exhibiting Covid-19 symptoms.

******Symptoms of Covid-19 include:

* + - * High temperature/ fever.
			* A new and persistent cough.
			* Loss or change in smell or taste.

If your child is displaying ANY of the symptoms of Covid 19 they **must stay at home** and follow the latest Public Health advice.

If anyone in your household is displaying symptoms of Covid 19, all members **must stay at home** and follow latest Public Health advice.

Public Health Advice can be accessed

 <https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/covid-19-coronavirus>

You must inform school as soon as possible if your child or anyone in the household is presenting with symptoms or has tested positive for Covid 19

If your child presents as unwell in school, staff may use a non-contact thermometer to check their temperature. They will be brought to an individual room with a member of staff while medical advice is sought and parents/guardians will be contacted immediately.

If there is a confirmed case of someone in the school having the Covid-19 virus, the school will follow the Department of Health’s ‘Test, Trace and Protect’ strategy. Therefore, the name and contact details of everyone who enters the school building will be recorded, including staff, pupils, parents and visitors.

We are not trying to keep children out of school, nor disrupt their education and learning, rather we are endeavouring to keep our children and staff safe and healthy. We need all of our families to continue to support us in achieving our aim to keep our children and staff safe and healthy and to keep our school open. We appreciate all your co operation with this matter.

**\*Important: any changes made to the advice we have at present, will prevail and we will\* endeavour to keep parents updated.**