

Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements: Suitable Premises, Environment and Equipment

Providers must take reasonable steps to ensure the safety of children, staff and others on the premises.

Health

The provider must promote the good health of children attending the setting.

8.8 COVID-19 Policy (January 2023)

Policy statement

The Pavilion Pre-School believes that the health and safety of the children is of paramount importance and therefore we ensure that our setting is a safe and healthy place for children, parents, carers and staff.

We aim to make children, parents, carers and staff aware of the health and safety issues associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and to minimise the risks so that children can thrive in a healthy and safe environment.

Key Points

- If your child is sick, you must keep them at home and notify the pre-school as soon as possible of your child's absence and their symptoms.
- Staff members will not come into pre-school if they are showing symptoms of COVID-19 i.e., a high temperature, a new consistent cough or a loss or change to their sense of taste or smell

Procedures: illness and infection control

We will:

- liaise with parents and carers regarding family health, where necessary
- ensure all children wash their hands on arrival
- ensure the children wash their hands more often than usual including before snack, after being outside as well as on arrival at pre-school and before they go home – where possible we will supervise hand washing to ensure they are washed thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap
- clean and disinfect toilet seats, toilet steps and bins after each session
- provide water, sanitation and waste management facilities and follow environmental cleaning and decontamination procedures where appropriate

- ensure children do not share cups or plates, food or drink with others
- use outdoor provision (weather permitting) to help minimise the risk of transmission and keep windows open to increase air flow and ventilation in all areas
- display signs encouraging good hand and respiratory hygiene practices
- notify parents and staff (via WhatsApp and a noticeboard outside the door) if anyone in the setting develops symptoms

Well-being

The Pavilion Pre-School recognises that since March 2020, each child will have had unique experiences and that some of these will have been positive and some negative. We will encourage children to discuss any questions, concerns or observations with staff and we will provide information in an age-appropriate manner.

We will also

- ensure that staff are aware of local resources for their own well-being
- work with appropriate professionals to identify and support families and staff who exhibit signs of distress
- create opportunities for children to play and relax

Insurance cover

We have public liability insurance and employers' liability insurance. The certificate for public liability insurance is displayed in both the Caterpillar Room and the Butterfly Room.

Further guidance

- DfE Guidance: Coronavirus (COVID-19): Implementing Protective Measure in Education and Childcare settings (2020)
- DfE Guidance: Coronavirus (COVID-19): Guidance for Educational Settings (2020)
- DfE Guidance: Actions for Early Years and Childcare Providers during the Coronavirus Outbreak (2020)