

Greenwich House Independent School

Illness and Exclusion Policy

Greenwich House Independent School including the Kindergarten and Creche (“Greenwich House”) follows the Guidance on Health Protection in Education and other Childcare Settings (as at the date of this policy last updated 5th May 2022) (the Guidance). A copy of this guidance is attached and the internet link for the same is as follows:-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-child-care-facilities>

This policy should also be read together with Greenwich House’s Infectious Disease Control Policy.

Greenwich House aims to promote a healthy environment for the children in our care and the members of staff who are responsible for looking after them. Whilst we have always needed the cooperation of parents and carers to support this it is, in light of the Coronavirus Covid 19 pandemic, this cooperation is ever more vital to maintain the safety of all members of the community of Greenwich House and to aid the uninterrupted education of the children who attend the school, kindergarten and creche.

If a child is ill and, in particular, if they have an infectious or contagious disease (including sickness and diarrhoea), it is in everybody’s best interests, and certainly the kindest type of action for the child, if they do not attend school and they recuperate at home. Any child requiring the administration of Calpol or a similar product for their symptoms should not be attending school, kindergarten or creche and we will not allow admittance to those who are and, again, we ask for the cooperation of all parents and carers in this respect.

The UK Health Security Agency’s guidance – People with symptoms of a respiratory infection including Covid-19 (https://www.gov.uk/guidance/people-with-symptoms-of-a-respiratory-infection-including-covid-19?utm_source=01%20April%202022%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19#symptoms-of-respiratory-infections-including-covid-19) – contains additional information to which we ask parents, carers and staff to refer and adhere to if they have symptoms or have been in contact with those of have symptoms. We would ask all members of the school community to also consider the impact of infection by a respiratory illness including Covid-19 on those people who are at higher risk of serious illness. The guidance referred to provides some examples but if any member of the school community is of higher risk we would ask them or their parents and carers to notify the Head Teacher or Kindergarten and Creche Manager where you have not already done so that additional measures can be put in place as appropriate. We have set out and quoted some of what the guidance says in relation specifically to exclusion due to illness below. It clear that, in respect of respiratory illnesses that:

“If you have symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as COVID-19, and you have a high temperature or you do not feel well enough to go to work or carry out normal activities, you are advised to try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people.”

Symptoms of COVID-19, flu and common respiratory infections include:

continuous cough
high temperature, fever or chills
loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell
shortness of breath
unexplained tiredness, lack of energy
muscle aches or pains that are not due to exercise
not wanting to eat or not feeling hungry
headache that is unusual or longer lasting than usual
sore throat, stuffy or runny nose
diarrhoea, feeling sick or being sick

As per the guidance, for those over 18 (including where no Covid-19 test has been taken), “If you have symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as COVID-19, and you have a high temperature or do not feel well enough to go to work or carry out normal activities, try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people, until you no longer have a high temperature (if you had one) or until you no longer feel unwell.”

For children and young people aged 18 years, the following applies:

“Children and young people with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, who are otherwise well, can continue to attend their education setting.

Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people, where they can. They can go back to school, college or childcare, and resume normal activities when they no longer have a high temperature and they are well enough to attend.”

For those over 18 who test positive for Covid-19:

“Many people with COVID-19 will no longer be infectious to others after 5 days. If you have a positive COVID-19 test result, try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days after the day you took your test.”

“At the end of this period, if you have a high temperature or feel unwell, try to follow this advice until you feel well enough to resume normal activities and you no longer have a high temperature if you had one.

Although many people will no longer be infectious to others after 5 days, some people may be infectious to other people for up to 10 days from the start of their infection. You should avoid meeting people at higher risk of becoming seriously unwell from COVID-19, especially those whose immune system means that they are at higher risk of serious illness from COVID-19, despite vaccination, for 10 days after the day you took your test.”

For children and young people aged 18 years and under who have had a positive test result:

“If a child or young person has a positive COVID-19 test result they should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day they took the test, if they can. After 3 days, if they feel well and do not have a high temperature, the risk of passing the infection on to others is much lower. This is because children and young people tend to be infectious to other people for less time than adults.

Children and young people who usually go to school, college or childcare and who live with someone who has a positive COVID-19 test result should continue to attend as normal.”

If a child becomes ill at Greenwich House (including having a high temperature), every effort will be made to contact the parents/carers. It is essential, therefore, that Greenwich House is in possession of up to date information in order to be able to contact parents/carers during normal hours. If the parents/carers cannot be contacted, the staff will endeavour to contact the named contacts on the child’s record.

If Greenwich House Staff are unable to contact a parent/carer or other named contact Greenwich House reserves the right to take the child to a general practitioner or hospital in an emergency. Parents/carers will be required to give signed consent for this procedure on registering their child at Greenwich House.

Greenwich House also follows UKHSA recommended guidelines for infectious disease control and any exclusion periods. It is acknowledged that these apply to staff and visitors as well as pupils. UKHSA’s Exclusion table can be accessed on the link below:-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-child-care-facilities/exclusion-table>

Once a child is better, they should return unless they pose a risk of infection to others. They should, in such cases, not return until the risk of infection has passed.

Any advice regarding the correct course of action in individual cases should be referred to a child’s parents or carers or their own GP. Parents are asked to take their child to the doctor before returning them to Greenwich House.

Greenwich House reserves the right to refuse admittance to children who have a temperature, sickness and diarrhoea or a contagious infection or disease. The exclusion periods referred to in the Guidance will not preclude Greenwich House exercising this right if a child, particularly a child who is still infectious or contagious, is still unwell and/or taking medication to mitigate an illness. Where appropriate Greenwich House will seek advice and/or act in accordance with guidance obtained from Public Health England.

Notification of exposure to infectious diseases.

If a child contracts an infectious disease, other parents will be informed in writing/email and via the Information Boards located on the premises.

If Greenwich House has reason to believe that any child is suffering from a notifiable disease identified as such in the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) regulations 1988, we will inform the local UKHSA Health Protection Team, and, if required, Ofsted. We will act on any advice given by Public Health England and, when required inform Ofsted of any action taken. The UKHSA’s list of notifiable diseases can be found in the above mentioned guidance and is displayed on the Information Boards within the setting.

Further guidance can also be found on the UKHSA website.
UKHSA Health Protection Team East Midlands - Tel: 03442254524

Signed on behalf of the setting by;

..... Head Teacher

Date : revised March 2012
reviewed October 2015
reviewed August 2017
reviewed August 2018
reviewed September 2019
reviewed November 2019
reviewed November 2020
reviewed March 2021
reviewed September 2021
reviewed January 2022
reviewed April / May 2022