

# CORONAVIRUS/COVID 19

## Hound Owls Preschool

### **Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Safety and Suitability of Premises, Environment and Equipment, Health**

**Providers must take reasonable steps to ensure the safety of children, staff and others on the premises. The provider must promote the good health of children attending the setting.**

#### **Policy statement**

The health and safety of the children attending our setting, our staff, and the families of staff and children are of paramount importance, along with the safety of the wider community. Children's emotional wellbeing is of equal importance and will be supported as skilfully as possible within the necessary restrictions that need to be implemented. Staff are trained in carrying out nurture groups and will utilise these strategies to provide a safe, stimulating and nurturing preschool experience for all who attend.

These procedures are written in line with guidance from UK Government;

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus> the managers are responsible for ensuring all staff understand and follow these procedures, and for updating procedures as guidance may change. The policy is additional to our general policies and should be viewed in partnership with them. Some necessary measures may supersede our existing policies temporarily. Where permanent changes are adopted, existing policies will be updated.

#### **Risk Assessment**

Our risk assessment process will be published on our website and via Tapestry and sent to parents via email with regular updates.

#### **Procedures**

- The preschool will only open as the Government has issued confirmation that it is safe to do so. Preschool will close as and when necessary through local and national guidance.
- Staff, parents and children must follow all necessary social distancing guidance, both at home and in preschool. This guidance may change; parents and staff must ensure that they keep updated and follow national guidance and strategies in relation to COVID 19 at all times.
- If we have to provide a limited service- Places will be prioritised in the following order: vulnerable children, children of keyworkers and then everyone else.

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### Indoor and outdoor environment

- The layout of the setting is set up to help with providing large groups with wider space. Free flow play will happen as normal. Numbers are kept low to keep transmission levels low.

### Infection controls – symptoms

- Anyone experiencing any of three coronavirus symptoms MUST stay at home. The symptoms are:
  1. A high temperature
  2. A new, continuous cough
  3. A loss of, or change to, sense of smell or taste
- Staff, parents or children with any of the 3 main symptoms – high temperature, new, continuous cough, loss or change to sense of smell or taste will not be permitted on preschool site and asked to get a test.
- If a staff member experiences symptoms while at work they will go home and asked to undertake a test.
- If a child presents with symptoms they will be taken to the foyer with a staff member who will wear PPE, parent of the child will be contacted to collect the child
- If a diagnosis of Covid is confirmed all necessary bodies will be informed, including Ofsted, Public Health England and in the case of staff contracting the virus, Riddor.
- We advise and expect parents and staff to fully support contact tracing measures and to follow the advice given, should they be contact traced. Parents must inform preschool if they/or any member of their household has been advised to self-isolate.
- Staff and visitors are encouraged to complete regular Lateral flow tests. Results should be reported to the government Covid reporting website and reported to Hound Owls management. The reporting form is in the risk assessment.

### Infection controls – other household members

- Staff MUST declare if they have a member of their household displaying signs of COVID-19 and may NOT come into preschool.
- Parents MUST declare if they have a member of their family displaying signs of COVID-19 and may NOT come into preschool.

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### Social distancing

Staff are permitted to wear a face mask or visor if they want to. Parents/Visitors are asked to wear face coverings if they enter the preschool building. Parents are asked to wear face covering on drop off and pick up.

#### Social Distancing - Visitors

- Children and staff will be the only persons to enter inside the preschool area of the building during operating hours. Visitors will be required to wear a face mask and wash hands on arrival. Qr code is situated in the foyer of the hall.

#### Social distancing – parents

- Drop off time is flexible to reduce congestion at drop off time.
- Social distancing must be observed on arrival and leaving the preschool.
- Children will be released to parents via the front door, one by one at home time – social distancing will be asked for waiting parents.

#### Social distancing – children

- Numbers of children will be limited to minimise number of contacts of children and adults.
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#### Hygiene controls – hand washing

- Staff and children will wash their hands on arrival to the premises, and often throughout the day and before they leave the preschool.
- Ample supplies of soap and paper towels will be provided and children supervised to ensure this is done safely.
- Children and parents are encouraged to wash their hands before they leave the house to come to preschool <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/best-way-to-wash-your-hands/>

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### Hygiene controls – toileting

- Staff will clean the toilets regularly.
- Staff will have PPE to carry out any intimate care duties if required.

### Infection controls – resources

- The resources offered will be limited to those that are not considered an infection risk. Dressing up will be washed regularly. Sand area and mud kitchen will not be introduced at this time.
- Resources will be cleaned in between each daily use.
- Outdoor resources such as the bikes etc. will be wiped down regularly.
- Equipment inside e.g. counter tops will be frequently wiped throughout the day and at the beginning and end of each day.

### Infection controls – cleaning

- Staff will conduct rigorous and thorough cleaning before children arrive at preschool, throughout the day and at the end of the day. This will include high contact areas such as door handles in addition to resources.

### Infection controls – administering first aid

- Any necessary first aid will be carried out by staff, all staff are first aid trained. Staff will use PPE.
- Major accidents/incidents will be dealt with in the usual way using PPE.

Risk Assessment adopted- January 2021

Amended- June 2021