



HARVEY ROAD DAY NURSERY LIMITED

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Introduction - COVID - 19 Contingency plan.

The Aim of This Plan If our Nursery or local area sees an extremely high prevalence of coronavirus (COVID-19) infection rates and existing measures in our community have failed to reduce this, the appropriate authorities will decide which additional measures to implement to help contain the spread. These measures may involve implementing a number of restrictions, which could include the closure of childcare settings in our area. Measures may also be necessary to help minimise the impact from new coronavirus variants. This contingency plan, also known as an 'outbreak management plan', outlines how the school will operate if further restrictions are implemented. The Nursery will work closely with the local health protection team (HPT) and implement provisions as advised by the team.

The government has made it a national priority that education and childcare settings should continue to stay open as much as possible during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Any restrictions on childcare settings would only be as a last resort and should only be initiated following a decision on a case-by-case basis

The government has advised that all Nurseries should continue to operate as normal and that all children should continue to attend unless required too self-isolate.

The contingency framework is designed to act as a containment measure where:

- There is extremely high prevalence of coronavirus.
- Other measures have already been implemented.
- There is a need to minimise the impact from a new coronavirus variant.

This plan is based on the contingency framework for managing local outbreaks of COVID-19, provided by the Department for Education (DfE).

We implement measures in this plan in response to recommendations provided by our local authority (LA), Public Health England (PHE) our local health protection teams or by following government guidance.

These measures will be implemented to help prevent the spread of infection within the nursery settings, to manage a COVID-19 outbreak or cluster, to react to high COVID-19 infection rates in the community or when all measures in place are still failing to reduce risk and infection.

Measures to prevent the spread of infection

Since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, we have been pleased with our Safe Operating Procedures and the adaptations we have made to our everyday practice to ensure we offered, and continue to offer, our staff and children a safe environment. Hygiene and enhanced Cleaning still remain the two key elements of infection prevention and control. We have made the decision to keep the following procedures in place:

- Any child, staff member, parent or visitor with coronavirus symptoms must not attend nursery and must isolate at home.
- Unwell Children will not be accepted into nursery.
- Any person displaying symptoms must not return to nursery until they have completed the required isolation period and/or received a negative coronavirus test, in line with government guidelines.
- Increased cleaning processes remain in place.
- Parents drop and off and collect children at the door each day.
- Staff members carry out regular Lateral Flow Device testing (due for review by PH, DfE in September 2021).
- Ventilation is a key part of infection control, doors and windows remain open and outdoor play is encouraged.

Management of an Outbreak of COVID-19 in a nursery setting

When the nursery infection cases of children or staff members reach 10% or five children or staff who are likely to have mixed close contact test positive in the Nursery setting over a 10 Day period this may be referred to as a COVID-19 outbreak. Harvey Road Day Nursery will take further advice from PHE. Actions may be:

- A more intense deep clean
- Partial closure of the nursery
- Full closure of The Nursery
- Isolation of identified children or staff members
- Investigation by the LA Health Protection Team

Infection prevention and control

The school's Risk Assessment covering infection control will continue to be adhered to – this meets the requirements set out in the DfE's system of controls.

Any member of the Nursery who displays symptoms of coronavirus will be required to self-isolate and encouraged to get a confirmatory polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test. Tests can be booked online or ordered by telephone via NHS 119.

All Nurseries are currently being provided with rapid-result lateral flow device (LFD) testing to identify asymptomatic cases of coronavirus.

If a variant of coronavirus classed as a variant of concern (VoC) is identified within the Nurseries geographical area, the Nursery will partake in targeted testing by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) to help suppress and control any possible new cases. The school will also adhere to advice from Directors of Public Health in relation to the temporary reintroduction of face coverings if necessary.

If a Child develops symptoms of coronavirus while on site, they will be taken to a separate area while they wait to be collected. The child will be supervised by a member of staff while they await collection. If the supervising member of staff is unable to socially distance, e.g. due to the Child's age or needs, they will wear PPE. After the pupil has left the premises, any areas used will be cleaned. The Child's parents will be encouraged to get their child tested with a confirmatory PCR test as soon as possible.

If a staff member develops symptoms while on site, they will be directed to go home immediately to self-isolate and to get a PCR test. Cover arrangements will be put in place.

Any staff members or other children who have been in close contact with a symptomatic individual at Nursery will not need to self-isolate unless they develop symptoms themselves.

Fully vaccinated adults, and Children under the age of 18, who have been identified as close contacts not in their own household, of a positive case via the NHS Test and Trace service, will not need to self-isolate unless advised by a healthcare professional.

Individuals/children that live in the same household with someone who has tested positive will be asked to refrain from attending Nursery during the isolation period.

Adults who have recently received their second dose of the vaccine will need to continue to follow the same rules as unvaccinated adults until two weeks after their second dose. Unvaccinated adults and adults who have only had one dose of the vaccine will need to continue to follow the rules on self-isolation if they have been identified as a close contact of a positive case.

If an individual tests positive, the Nursery will contact the DfE Helpline, where a team of NHS advisers will decide what action is needed based on the latest public health advice.

The Nursery will follow the expert advice, which could include working with the local HPT if the situation is escalated by the advisers.

It is important to think about taking extra actions if the number of positive coronavirus cases in the school substantially increases, as this could indicate that coronavirus transmission is happening in Nursery.

The following thresholds will be used as an indication of when to seek public health advice, whichever is reached first:

- Five children, pupils, students or staff who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for coronavirus within a 10-day period
- 10 percent of children, pupils, students or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive for coronavirus within a 10-day period.

When a threshold is reached, the school will review and reinforce the testing, hygiene and ventilation measures already in place. The Nursery will also consider:

- Whether all activities can take place outdoors.
- Ways to improve ventilation indoors that will not significantly impact thermal comfort.
- One-off enhanced cleaning, focusing on touch points and any shared equipment.

The school will seek additional public health advice if there is concern regarding transmission in the Nursery either by phoning the DfE helpline or in line with other local arrangements.

The school will also refer to the government's contingency framework for further information.

The individual's close contacts at Nursery – where they do not fulfil the criteria outlined in this section of the contingency plan – will be contacted by the NHS Test and Trace, and advised to take a PCR test. If more individuals test positive, the school will follow advice from the local HPT, which may include requiring more people to self-isolate. Staff who do not need to isolate and young people under the age of 18 years and six months who have been identified as a close contact should continue to attend Nursery as normal.

As the result of an outbreak during step 4 of the coronavirus recovery roadmap, a temporary requirement could be implemented for staff to resume wearing face coverings in areas other than crowded spaces where they are likely to come into contact with others they would not normally meet. This may include face coverings being reintroduced in communal areas and drop and collection for members of staff and Parents.

The Nursery may also be required to reintroduce the use of bubbles in order to resume social distancing and limit the transmission of coronavirus. The Nursery will adhere to any conditions set out by the local HPT

Reaction to high infection rates in the local community

Harvey Road ensure that they are up to date with infection records in their local Area. If contacted by DPH or the LA regarding a high level of infection in the local community the following actions may be recommended:

- Trips and outings in the area are limited or stopped completely for all children
- Events and social days at the nurseries are cancelled
- Visitors are not permitted onto the nursery site unless essential to a child's development or wellbeing or to manage an essential need (ie. maintenance). Any visitors that are permitted on site must wear full PPE and give their details to the Office manager to allow management of contact tracing if needed.

Actions following high levels of risk and infection

Attendance restrictions will only be used as a last resort. Our requests would be presented in the following order:

- If you are able to keep your child home to please do so.
- Only vulnerable children and those whose parents are critical workers may attend.
- There will remain a Safeguarding Lead, Named First Aider and Named Manager on site at all times

The Nursery will lift restrictions as soon as it is advised by the government that it is appropriate to do so.

The Management team will work with the DFE, PHE and other local authorities to ensure children and Staff only return to Nursery when it is safe for them to do so.

Prior to the return of more Children and staff, all relevant risk assessments will be reviewed.

The Management Team will inform staff and parents, prior to the return to Nursery, whether any further restrictions, such as the use of bubbles and face coverings, have been resumed.

The Manager or Deputy will be happy to discuss all concerns that parents may have about their child returning to Nursery and will advise them of the measures in place to ensure the safety of their children.

Safeguarding

Ensuring safeguarding arrangements remain effective during periods of restricted attendance is a key priority.

We will continue to ensure that:

- The best interests of pupils always come first.
- If anyone in the school has a safeguarding concern about a pupil, they act immediately.
- A Designated lead is always available.

| This policy was adopted on | Signed on behalf of the nursery | Date for review |
|-----------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| September 2022 | Suzanne Baldry – Nursery Manager | September 2023 |