



Managing children who are sick, infectious, or with allergies

St Marks Pre-school aims to provide care for healthy children through preventing cross-infection of viruses and bacterial infections and to promote health through identifying allergies and preventing contact with the allergenic trigger.

Procedures for children who are sick or infectious

- If children appear unwell during the day – for example, if they have a temperature, sickness, diarrhoea or pains, particularly in the head or stomach – the Pre-school Manager will call the parents and ask them to collect the child, or to send a known carer to collect the child on their behalf.
- If a child has a temperature, they are kept cool by removing top clothing and sponging their heads with cool water but kept away from draughts.
- The child's temperature is taken using a digital forehead thermometer or digital thermometer under the arm, kept in the first aid box.
- In extreme cases of emergency, e.g. a febrile convulsion, an ambulance will be called and the parent informed.
- Parents are asked to take their child to the doctor before returning them to the setting; the pre-school can refuse admittance to children who have a temperature, sickness and diarrhoea or a contagious infection or disease.
- Where children have been prescribed antibiotics for an infectious illness or complaint, the pre-school will ask parents to keep them at home for 48 hours before returning to the setting, with the exception of any condition that means that a child may well be on long-term antibiotics.
- After diarrhoea or sickness, the pre-school will ask parents to keep children home for 48 hours following the last episode.
- Some activities, such as sand and water play, and self-serve snacks where there is a risk of cross-contamination, may be suspended for the duration of any outbreak.
 - The pre-school has a list of excludable diseases and current exclusion times. The full list is obtainable from https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/658736/Exclusion_table.pdf and includes common childhood illnesses such as measles.

Reporting of 'notifiable diseases'

- If a child or adult is diagnosed as suffering from a notifiable disease under the Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010, the GP will report this to Public Health England.

- When St Marks Pre-school becomes aware, or is formally informed of, the notifiable disease, the Pre-school Manager will inform Ofsted and contact Public Health England, and act on any advice given.

HIV/AIDS/Hepatitis procedure

HIV virus, like other viruses such as Hepatitis A, B and C, is spread through body fluids. Hygiene precautions for dealing with body fluids are the same for all children and adults. All practitioners at St Marks Pre-school will:

- Wear single-use vinyl gloves and aprons when changing children's nappies, pants and clothing that are soiled with blood, urine, faeces or vomit.
- Double bag soiled clothing for parents to take home for cleaning.
- Clear spills of blood, urine, faeces or vomit using mild disinfectant solution and mops; any cloths used are disposed of with the clinical waste.
- Clean any tables and other furniture, furnishings or toys affected by blood, urine, faeces or vomit using a disinfectant.

Nits and head lice

- Nits and head lice are not an excludable condition; although in exceptional cases the pre-school may ask a parent to keep the child away until the infestation has cleared.
- On identifying cases of head lice, the Pre-school Manager/Room Leader will inform the parents of the case and ask them to treat their child and all the family if they are found to have head lice.

Procedures for children with allergies

- As part of the settling process at St Marks Pre-school the Key Person will ask parents if their child suffers from any known allergies. This is recorded on the Registration Form.
- If a child has an allergy, the Pre-school Manager will complete a risk assessment form to detail the following:
 - the allergen;
 - the nature of the allergic reactions;
 - what to do in case of allergic reactions, any medication used and how it is to be used; and
 - control measures – such as how the child can be prevented from contact with the allergen.

A health care plan will be developed in conjunction with medical professionals as appropriate: this will be reviewed on a six-monthly or annual basis as appropriate.

- This risk assessment form is stored in an appropriate personal file in the office and an action plan is developed, a copy of which will be displayed where the practitioner team can see it and/or in the emergency medication pouch for that child.
- St Marks Pre-school does not allow any nuts or nut products to be consumed or used within the setting.
- Parents are made aware so that no nuts or nut products are accidentally brought in, and reminder slips are put in children's lunchboxes as necessary.

Insurance requirements for children with allergies and disabilities

- As necessary, St Marks Pre-school's insurance will include children with any disability or allergy, but certain procedures must be strictly adhered to as set out below. For children suffering life-threatening conditions, or requiring invasive treatments, written confirmation from the pre-school's insurance provider must be obtained to extend the insurance.
- At all times St Marks Pre-school will ensure that the administration of medication is compliant with the Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage.
- Oral medication (including asthma inhalers):
 - Oral medications must be prescribed by a GP or have manufacturer's instructions clearly written on them.
 - St Marks Pre-school must be provided with clear written instructions on how to administer such medication.
 - The pre-school will adhere to all risk assessment procedures for the correct storage and administration of the medication.
 - The pre-school must have the parent's or guardian's prior written consent. This consent must be kept on file.

Life-saving medication and invasive treatments

- These include adrenaline injections (Epipens) for anaphylactic shock reactions. The pre-school must have:
 - a letter from the child's GP/consultant stating the child's condition and what medication if any is to be administered;
 - written consent from the parent or guardian allowing trained practitioners to administer medication; and
 - proof of training in the administration of such medication by the child's GP, a district nurse, children's nurse specialist or a community paediatric nurse.
- Where a Key Person has special needs children requiring assistance with tubes to help them with everyday living, e.g. breathing apparatus, to take nourishment, colostomy bags, etc:
 - Prior written consent must be obtained from the child's parent or guardian to give treatment and/or medication prescribed by the child's GP.
 - The Key Person must have the relevant medical training/experience, which will include receiving appropriate instructions from an appropriate medical professional.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of the pre-school held on (date)

Signed on behalf of the pre-school