

DOWNHAM PREPARATORY SCHOOL and MONTESSORI NURSERY

CORONAVIRUS NURSERY RISK ASSESSMENT and GUIDELINES

Updated 1/1/2021, in line with new guidance published on 30/12/2020

Temperature and supervision of children who are unwell

Every child will have their temperature taken, using a no-touch thermometer, on arrival at school in the morning. In addition, any child displaying any symptoms of ill health during the day will have their temperature taken immediately. Children with a persistent dry cough or a temperature will be kept in isolation until a parent or carer comes to collect them. Staff supervising children who become unwell will wear PPE: gloves, aprons, face mask and a face shield to protect their eyes. If the child has a cough we will provide them with a disposable mask to wear until they are collected. Children who are unwell will be taken to the medical room and be supervised by a member of staff until they are collected. The medical room will then be thoroughly disinfected.

Handwashing

Children and staff are to wash their hands for **30** seconds (new guidelines; 20 seconds still leaves some germs) with soap and water and dry them with a paper towel. We are not using hot-air hand driers as these blow particles into the surrounding area. Before children eat their snack and lunch, they will be supervised whilst they also apply hand sanitiser.

Guidance on the general frequency of handwashing.

How often should staff and children wash their hands?

As soon as they arrive at school in the morning.

Immediately before eating their morning snack and lunch, and **after** eating, as their hands, could then be infected with saliva.

After using the lavatory.

After coughing or sneezing.

After touching any area that might be contaminated.

After playing outside.

After touching their faces

The chief Medical Officer has told us that the virus enters the body when we touch our faces, through the mouth, nose and EYES. To avoid children touching their faces, staff will follow these guidelines:

- 1) *Children and staff with long hair must wear it tied back.* (When hair falls across the face we automatically brush it away with our hands.)
- 2) It is recommended that people who wear contact lenses should use spectacles, if they have them, to avoid putting foreign bodies into their eyes and touching them.
- 3) If the children are not using their hands e.g. watching a film, listening to a story, they will be asked to put their hands in their laps and interlock their fingers to avoid them unconsciously touching their faces.
- 4) Children must not hold hands with other children or play games involving physical contact.
- 5) If a child sucks their finger, puts a finger up their nose or rubs their eyes, they must be sent to wash their hands immediately.
- 6) Staff must not wear rings, other than bands, as these could harbour germs and prevent safe hand washing.

Social Distancing in the school grounds

We have arranged different drop off and collection points, to allow parents to observe social distancing. Please maintain social distancing when you are waiting to collect your child.

Guidelines state that everyone, adults and children, should try to maintain a distance apart of 2 metres, where possible. Only one parent from each family is allowed on site. Please follow the signage for entering and leaving the school grounds.

Update 1/1/2021

The side entrance to the school and the path from the road, (along the cemetery wall), are narrow. At peak times it is not always possible to maintain a safe distance between groups of parents and children. We have several parents with quite serious health problems. We would therefore ask that all parents wear a face mask, or if they cannot wear a mask, a face shield when they are on school grounds. If there is a health reason that prevents you from their use, please contact the office and we will make alternative arrangements for you to collect your child safely from school.

Only one parent from each family is allowed on site. Please follow the signage for entering and leaving the school grounds.

Parents are not allowed into the school unless they are collecting a sick child. They will then be asked to wear a face mask, and apply hand sanitising gel on entering the building.

When parents are arriving or leaving the school with their children, they should maintain a distance of 2 metres apart from each other and leave the premises as soon as possible.

Please do not congregate in the car parks or allow your children to play with each other.

If your child travels to school in a taxi you must give the office the contact details of the taxi company so that we can contact them if we need to advise them of any infection at the school.

Can we please remind you that parents from different households are not allowed to lift share or invite other children for play dates or sleepovers.

Government guidelines state that it is not advisable for children to attend more than one setting. If your child does attend another nursery or child minder you must give us their contact details and give our nursery details to them. We have to be able to inform them if there is any infection in our nursery and they must inform us if they have any cases in theirs.

Drop off

Nursery drop off from 8.30

The baby room entrance will be through the conservatory and baby garden.

All other nursery children will enter through the FRONT black door to The Rectory, this will be signposted.

Collection

Nursery collection: morning session 11.30, afternoon session 3.30

The children from the baby room can be collected from the conservatory/baby garden which is in their play area.

All other nursery children are to be collected from the back door of the Rectory Please ring on the doorbell.

Parents are not allowed to enter the school to leave buggies. We have buggies of our own which will be kept disinfected.

Before and After School Care

We will be providing before and after school care, primary pupils will not join the nursery they will have separate rooms and staff.

When arriving for before school care or collecting your child from after school care, please use the black front door to The Rectory.

What to do if you or your child develops symptoms

If your child or anyone in your household develops symptoms, you must inform the school immediately and arrange a test. Please use the link for the Government 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection' (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>). They should get a test:

- If the test delivers a negative result, they must remain in isolation for the remainder of the 10-day isolation period. This is because they could still develop the coronavirus (COVID-19) within the remaining days.
- If the test result is positive, they should inform their setting immediately and must isolate for at least 7 days from the outset of their symptoms (which could mean the self-isolation ends before or after the original 10-day isolation period). Their household should self-isolate for at least 10 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms, following 'stay at home' guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection.

Further guidance is available on testing and tracing for coronavirus (COVID-19) (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing>).

Nursery Staff

Nursery staff have to touch the children in their care; to feed them, change nappies etc. The government has acknowledged that it is not possible to ensure that this age group maintains social distancing. However, staff must keep touch to a minimum, wash hands for 30 secs before and after touching a child. When changing nappies or dealing with children who have soiled themselves, staff will wear disposable gloves, aprons and a face shield to protect their eyes from splashes.

Cups and plates will be washed immediately after use in hot soapy water and Milton or a similar sterilising solution.

At the end of the day, cups, plates and utensils will be put into Milton or a sterilising solution, left overnight and washed with hot soapy water before school the next morning.

All soft toys, soft furnishing, dressing-up clothes and cuddly toys have been removed from the nursery. We have minimised the number of toys within the setting and ensured that the resources being used are wooden or plastic and can be easily wiped clean throughout the day.

Update 1/1/2021

To enable the children to use more resources, especially those with small parts, we have purchased a misting machine, this will be used with an anti-viral solution that dries very quickly.

Nursery children will be in small, manageable groups, (bubbles) and they will stay within their own group with their key worker. The groups will maintain a safe distance from other groups.

There is also designated, outdoor space for each group.

We are spending as much time as possible outdoors for both, learning and free play, as it is well documented that the risk of the virus spreading is greatly reduced in the open air.

Lunches

1/1/2021 Lunch Time Co, who run our school kitchen, have carried out their own risk assessment with their cooks for use in the kitchen. The school has issued the cooks with our own guidelines for use in the lunch hall and delivering the food from our kitchen to the nursery,

Children will eat either a packed lunch or a hot lunch within their 'bubbles'

Keeping surfaces sterile

If a child coughs or sneezes onto a surface, a toy or a piece of equipment, the surface will be cleaned immediately. We have plenty of anti-viral spray but a solution of 1 part bleach to 10 parts water can also be used. This is just as good at killing germs as the anti-bac sprays. All sprays will be kept out of the reach of children.

Lavatories

Staff check the children's lavatories and cloakrooms whenever possible and ensure all W.C.s have been properly flushed and that there is enough soap and paper towels. Toilets and cloakrooms are only to be used, at the same time, by children who are in the same bubble.

Pets' Corner

When visiting pet's corner children must use the hand sanitiser which is provided.

Visitors.

1/1/2021 Due to the increase in the infection rate, caused by the new variant of Covid 19, we are not able to offer face -to- face meetings with parents. Parents wanting to speak to a teacher should contact the school office. We will then arrange a meeting via Teams or a phone call, if parents prefer.

Tradesmen and maintenance workers will be asked to do any necessary work out of school hours and will only be allowed on site during the school day if there is an emergency, they will be required to leave their contact details and wear PPE whilst on site.

No parents or visitors are allowed to enter the school unless by prior appointment or to collect a sick child.

Cleaning

The cleaners will deep clean all the areas of the school that we have informed them that we are using: classrooms, door handles, lavatories, banisters etc, with anti- viral products. This will be done in the evening after school. Staff continually clean surfaces and lavatories throughout the day.

Tissues.

A supply of tissue will be kept in every room. If a child uses a tissue, they will be instructed to put it in the sealed bin. There will be a bin, with a bin liner in each room. This bin is not to be used for any other purpose.

Each room will also have a supply of anti-bacterial hand sanitiser and anti-viral cleaning spray, (with a disposable cloth.)

1/1/2021

Covid guidelines state that windows must be left open for ventilation. It is now very cold. Parents must ensure that their child is dressed in warm indoor clothing and that they have a warm coat/jumpsuit, hat and gloves. The children will spend a lot of time outdoors for play and recreation.

N.B.If your child has a sleep at school please provide a blanket, in addition to a sheet. These should be collected from the nursery on the last day of the week your child attends for laundering.

This policy was revised and re-written on 1/1/2021 in line with the new guidelines issued on 30/12/2020 for the opening of schools in January 2021

Policy up-dates

We are monitoring the advice from the Chief Medical Office and the Department of Education constantly throughout every day. If any new advice or guidelines are issued, we will issue an update immediately.