



Sick Child Policy
Reviewed December 2025

Objective

To ensure the health and well-being of all children and staff at Portman Nursery School we aim to identify early on when a child in our care becomes unwell and respond quickly to prevent the spread of contagious illnesses. This policy outlines procedures for managing sick children and minimising the risk of transmission within the nursery setting.

1. Sick Child Identification:

- Parents are responsible for promptly notifying the nursery if their child is unwell. This can be reported to the nursery office by calling the main line on 0203 307 1940. Parents are encouraged to inform the nursery of any diagnosed contagious illnesses, enabling proactive measures.
- If a child becomes unwell whilst attending nursery; Nursery staff will observe children for signs of illness and report any concerns to parents, the family worker and head teacher. This will result in children being sent home to minimise discomfort to the child and prevent contagion. These decisions will be made by the child's family worker alongside a first aider and a member of the senior leadership team. If we are unable to contact parents/carers then we phone the emergency contact number.
- Nursery staff will provide comfort measures while maintaining a safe distance to minimise the risk of transmission. This may include letting a child sleep until they are collected.
- In some instances, the senior leadership team will contact the local Authority /NHS for advice where necessary.

2. Phoning Home:

Children with the following symptoms will be sent home from the nursery until they are symptom-free for a specified period (most commonly this will be 48hrs):

- Fever (above 38°C)
- Vomiting or diarrhoea
- Persistent cough
- Contagious diseases (as per public health guidelines such as chicken pox)

If the child has a pre-existing medical condition give them their medication as described in their Health Care Plan or prescribed by GP.

Parents are advised to keep children home until they have been symptom-free for at least 48 hours without medication.

3. Hygiene Practices:

- Staff will enforce rigorous hand hygiene for all children and themselves to minimise illnesses and transmission of germs.
- Increased frequency of disinfection for high-touch surfaces and toys during periods of illness.

4. Return to Nursery:

Children may return to the nursery after they have remained home for the required period of 48hrs and/or they are deemed well enough after the 48hr home period. Parents should communicate with nursery staff regarding the child's recovery before returning.

5. Staff Training:

Nursery staff will receive training on recognising symptoms of contagious illnesses, common childhood illnesses and implementing proper hygiene practices.

Regular updates on health and safety protocols will be provided to staff.

6. Medical Emergencies:

In the event of a medical emergency, where a child's illness requires immediate attention beyond the scope of the nursery's resources, parents or emergency contacts will be notified promptly. If necessary, nursery staff will seek medical assistance and accompany the child to the hospital, ensuring that parents are informed throughout the process. It is crucial for parents to provide accurate emergency contact information, including details of the child's primary healthcare provider and any specific medical instructions. The nursery will follow established emergency response procedures, prioritising the well-being and safety of the child. Parents are expected to update the nursery promptly regarding any changes in the child's health status or emergency contact information to facilitate efficient and effective responses in times of need.

Public Health Guidelines:

The nursery will adhere to local public health and Department for Education guidelines regarding the management of contagious illnesses.

By adhering to this policy, we aim to create a healthy and safe environment for all children attending the nursery. Parents' cooperation is essential in minimising the risk of illness transmission within our community.