



the Willow

## Coronavirus Policy – Protecting Children, Staff, and Willow Families

### Policy statement

The Willow Nursery will work with staff, children, parents, and the community to do everything that is reasonably possible to keep all the members of the Willow Nursery safe and alert. This Coronavirus Policy is based on the guidance supplied by the Government, Public Health England (PHE), and the Department for Education (DfE). This policy is to be read in conjunction with the “Covid 19 Risk Assessment - Health”.

### Basis

In order to stop the spread of the virus within our setting we will ensure we have rigorous infection control measures in place. This will include:

- Lateral Flow Tests for all staff twice weekly if they are full time.
- Daily checklists for staff to ensure the nursery is a safe and clean place for the children to arrive in the mornings.
- Good basic hygiene practices such as regular handwashing (practitioners and children).
- Supervise young children to ensure they wash their hands for 20 seconds more often than usual with soap and water.
- Clean and disinfect regularly touched objects, toys and surfaces more often than usual using your standard cleaning products.
- Soft toys and dressing up clothes will be limited and removed after each week for cleaning.
- All unnecessary items removed from classroom and stored safely.
- Hands will be washed after any deliveries have been opened and the packaging disposed of responsibly.
- Waterproof dressing to cover on any existing wounds or lesions.
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) such as aprons and gloves are used as necessary, including when administering First Aid.
- Clear procedures are in place for cleaning equipment and wider environment.
- Immediate cleaning of spillages of blood and other bodily fluids.
- Clear procedures on safe disposal of waste.
- Infection control guidance and management procedures in place which are clearly understood and adhered to by staff.
- Any items that come into contact with mouths such as cups, bottles and straws should not be shared, children should bring own personal drinking bottles.

- Toilet facilities should be used with social distancing in mind.
- High risk groups will continue to have some individual work uploaded to the Portal (but as staff will be working full-time this will only be a couple of Literacy or Maths activities).
- We will have boxes containing spare aprons, gloves, hand-sanitiser, tissues, anti-bacterial wipes.
- Children to bring in own lunch boxes and snacks in sealed bags or containers.
- All essential visitors to wear face coverings during their time at the nursery.

## **Handwashing**

Public Health England advises that children and staff should be encouraged to catch sneezes with a tissue, bin the tissue and wash their hands - catch it, kill it, bin it.

We will also remind children to wash their hands:

- when they arrive at The Willow in the morning
- after being in the garden
- before break time and lunch times
- after using the toilet
- at the end of the day before they go home

If we are in an area where we do not have access to soap and water to hand at the time, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer can be used instead. We will use a product with recommended alcohol content. It is important that everyone should try not to touch their eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.

## **Procedures for Parents and Staff**

Parents should ensure they assess their child's health; staff will do the same for themselves. If the temperature is high, your child has a new persistent cough, loss of sense of taste or smell or they are generally feeling unwell, it is essential they are kept at home.

On arrival at the nursery please remember to maintain social distancing rules and stay **1.5m** apart from others wherever possible. There will be hand sanitising facilities at the nursery gate where a staff member will sign in your child. There will also be a box for you to place any items you wish to leave for your child during the day, such as lunch boxes and water bottles. Please ensure these are clearly named.

Do not be alarmed to see staff wearing PPE (face coverings) during drop off and pick up times. This is left at the discretion of the staff.

Please make sure your child comes in with a spare change of clothes and shoes. These need to be replenished daily if they have been used.

## **Staffing**

As of the 8th March 2021, when all schools reopened, we will revert back to one whole nursery bubble for those children in the nursery.

We will maintain the Early Years Foundation Stage requirements of staff:child ratios as follows:

- Under 3 years – 1:4
- Over 3 years – 1:8

If staffing levels fall below this requirement due to staff sickness, or absence due to vulnerability, we reserve the right to reduce the number of children allowed into the nursery on those days.

### **If your child starts displaying symptoms of Covid-19 while in our setting**

If a child starts showing symptoms of Covid-19 while in our setting, we will contact their parent/carer to collect them as soon as possible. All children attending the setting are eligible for Covid-19 testing if they have symptoms. Please phone 111 to arrange. If they should test positive, your child should isolate for 10 days (**See Addendum 1**). If your child tests positive, please let us know so that we can notify other parents although we will not identify the child. The guidance currently states that children under the age of 18 no longer need to self-isolate if they are identified as a close contact of a positive Covid case. (**See Addendum 1**).

While they are awaiting collection, where possible, they will be put in Kirsty's room with appropriate adult supervision. If it is not possible to isolate them, we will move them to an area which is at least two metres away from other people.

If they need to go to the toilet while waiting to be collected, they will use a separate toilet if possible. The toilet will then be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else.

If a member of your household tests positive, it is no longer a legal requirement for your child/ren to isolate but we would prefer if your child isolates for 5 days and takes a test before returning to nursery.

We will increase the frequency of handwashing and cleaning surfaces, toys, and other equipment in our setting.

If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature in a setting they must be sent home and advised to follow the staying at home guidance.

In an emergency, call 999 if they are seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk. Do not visit the GP, pharmacy, urgent care centre or a hospital.

If a member of staff has helped someone who was taken unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves.

They should wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds, and change into their spare set of clothes, after any contact with someone who is unwell.

Cleaning with normal household disinfectant after someone with symptoms has left will reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people.

## **School Closure due to Covid 19:**

If we have more than 10% of positive cases in the school, the school will have to close for 10 days due to staff shortages arising from self-isolating (or if any members of staff develop symptoms or are tested positive for Covid 19), the nursery reserves the right to retain any fees paid. We will keep all parents/carers and staff up to date of re-opening dates and times. At this point we will revert to the Parent Portal where individual work will be uploaded for each child's needs.

## **Addendum 1:**

From Monday 17 January 2022, people who are self-isolating with COVID-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to their education or childcare setting immediately on day 6.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day.

If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.

In addition, if a child under five is a contact of a confirmed case, they are not required to self-isolate and should not start daily testing.

## **Useful Online Resources:**

- E-bug – a service to help parents talk to children about Covid 19
- [Childrenscommissioner.gov.uk](https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk) – A PDF of a children's guide to the Coronavirus
- Thinkuknow – Staying safe online
- MindEd – Educational resources for children and adults on Mental Health
- [Gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus) – The governments homepage to Covid 19

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

This policy was Adopted by:

The Willow Nursery

On:

19<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Updated:

17<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Written by:

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Review date:

Annually or more frequent as necessary