



Thorpe Willoughby Childcare Centre

COVID19 Policy Document

Thorpe Willoughby Childcare Centre is currently open to priority groups (children of critical workers, and vulnerable children). As per the existing guidance on vulnerable children and young people, vulnerable children continue to be encouraged to attend childcare where it is appropriate for them to do so.

This will be changed and up-dated as per government guidelines on opening guidance.

We have a protocol in place to reduce the risk of infection as this is as follows:

All Staff will ensure the setting and equipment is clean and all hygiene procedures are followed prior to the arrival of the children.

Staff will take their own temperature and record (3 hourly) this may change as per government guidance

Should staff have a raised temperature COVID procedures will be followed:

Leave immediately, children shielded in the setting until parents can collect them.

Advise parents of the situation

Staff will shield for 7 days

The setting and equipment will be thoroughly deep cleaned prior to the return of any children

Children will arrive via the bungalow entrance, one child at a time entry and leave via either the side gate (bungalow Children) or the top building door, again one at a time.

On arrival, Parents will wait at the gate until the child’s temperature is taken and recorded before they leave. (Again Safeguarding Policy and Procedures)

Should a child have a raised Temperature they must leave the setting immediately (noted)

Hygiene procedure will be followed at all times:

Regular hand washing for staff and children.

Any toys or equipment used will be thoroughly deep cleaned after use.

All door handles light switches cleaned regularly whilst setting is in use.

Wherever possible use the outside area for play, parents will be advised on supplying all weather clothes.

From 1 June the government will be encouraging all children to attend childcare – it will be no longer necessary for parents to keep children at home if they can.

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The procedures will remain the same as above:

Changes to arrival departure:



All children will arrive via the gate by the hedge to social distance from school arrivals, they will then follow the original entry via the bungalow

Leaving will follow original procedure, using hedge gate and ensuring social distancing from others.

(This is in agreement with the school)

This policy is in line with current guidance, it is extremely hard to keep young children apart, we aim to maintain the hygiene procedures and use outdoor areas wherever possible, and this will reduce the risk of infection.

Depending on numbers it may be that we will split the children into small groups and use different indoor/outdoor areas.

Toileting: one staff member will be responsible for toileting/nappy change to avoid cross infection, after each child has visited the toilet, they must wash their hands, and the staff member will thoroughly deep clean the area before another children visits. PPE must be worn at all time and changed for each child. (This may be by per session) this person will also be responsible for First Aid.

As a team we must ensure we regularly maintain our own and the children’s hygiene to maintain a safe setting.

Up-Date to Policy: September 2021

The government continues to manage the risk of serious illness from the spread of the virus. They have moved away from stringent restrictions on everyone’s day-to-day lives, towards advising people on how to protect themselves and others, alongside targeted interventions to reduce risk.

Children are deemed extremely low, and every adult has been offered the opportunity for two doses of the vaccine, and all children aged 12 and over are now eligible for vaccination.

The priority is for the setting to deliver face-to-face, high quality education and childcare to all our children.

The Government has worked closely with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and Public Health England (PHE) to revise the guidance.

As a settings we are responsible for the following:

Safeguarding – we will work with local agencies and services to actively look for signs of harm given the greater risk of harm that some children may have been exposed to through COVID-19

Supporting children’s learning, development and wellbeing - continue to follow the early years foundation stage (EYFS) statutory framework

Supporting vulnerable children

We have a contingency plan ,outlining what we will do if children or staff test positive for COVID-19, or how we will operate if we are advised to take extra measures to help break chains of transmission.

These measures will only be considered as a last resort and kept to the minimum, and for the shortest amount of time possible.

We may need to think about taking extra action if the number of positive cases substantially increases. (Closure)



Workforce

Social distancing measures ended in the workplace on 19 July 2021 and it is no longer necessary for Government to advise people to work from home.

Our Hygiene measures will remain high and in place to keep staff and children safe at the Centre.

Any visitors to the Centre will be made aware of the setting’s control measures and ways of working.

Staff/children previously considered clinically extremely vulnerable

As the shielding programme has ended, our vulnerable staff can now continue to follow the same guidance as everyone else.

Any staff previously considered CEV may wish to consider taking extra precautions. In some circumstances, staff may have received personal advice from their specialist or clinician on additional precautions to take, and they should continue to follow that advice.

Children previously considered clinically extremely vulnerable

Children previously considered CEV should attend their settings and should follow the same COVID-19 guidance as the rest of the population.

However, if a child has been advised to isolate or reduce their social contact by their specialist, due to the nature of their medical condition or treatment, rather than because of the pandemic, they should continue to follow the advice of their specialist.

Risk Assessment.

We will regularly review and update our risk assessments to changing circumstances

You should make sure your contingency plans (sometimes called outbreak management plans), cover the possibility that it may become necessary to reintroduce keeping groups apart for a temporary period.

As close contacts in early years settings are now being identified by NHS Test and Trace and education, and childcare settings will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing.

Government guidelines state:

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case, and any of the following apply:

They are fully vaccinated.

They are below the age of 18 years 6 months

They have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial

They are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons (evidence will be needed for staff)

Instead they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test.

Children who are aged under 5 years old who are identified as close contacts will only be advised to take a PCR test if the positive case is in their own household.



Staff who do not need to self-isolate, and children who usually attend the setting, and have been identified as a close contact, should continue to attend the setting as normal.

Face coverings

The government has removed the requirement to wear face coverings in law.

The Centre Control measures are:

We will ensure good hygiene for everyone

We will maintain appropriate cleaning regimes

We will keep occupied spaces well ventilated

We will follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19

Hand hygiene

Frequent and thorough hand cleaning will continue to be a regular practice. We will continue to ensure that children clean their hands regularly. This will be done with soap and water or hand sanitiser.

Respiratory hygiene

The ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach continues to be very important in the Centre.

Continue to use of personal protective equipment (PPE)

Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes, using standard products such as detergents

We will maintain an appropriate cleaning schedule, including regular cleaning of areas and equipment (for example, twice per day) with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces.

Keeping occupied spaces well ventilated

When the Centre is open we will ensure it is well ventilated and a comfortable environment is maintained.

Asymptomatic testing

Testing remains important in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within the Centre.

That is why, while some measures are relaxed, others will remain, Staff should continue to test twice weekly at home with rapid lateral flow device (LFD) test kits, 3 to 4 days apart. Testing is Mandatory at the Centre (see the Covid Testing Policy)

Confirmatory polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests

Staff and children with a positive rapid lateral flow test result will be expected to self-isolate in line with COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection.

They will also need to get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID-19, while awaiting the PCR result, the staff member/child should continue to self-isolate.



Welfare Requirement – Safeguarding and promoting children’s welfare
Every Child Matters – Stay Safe

If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive rapid lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the rapid lateral flow test and they can return to the setting, as long as the individual does not have COVID-19 symptoms.

Please read through this policy and signed to say you have read and agree.

Name: Signed: Date: