Sickness and Illness Policy

At **Bell Day Nursery** we promote the good health of all children attending, including oral health by:

* Asking parents to keep children at home if they are unwell. If a child is unwell, it is in their best interest to be in a home environment rather than at nursery with their peers.
* Asking staff and other visitors not to attend the setting if they are unwell.
* Helping children to keep healthy by providing balanced and nutritious snacks, meals and drinks.
* Minimising infection through our rigorous cleaning and hand washing processes (see Infection control policy).
* Ensuring children have regular access to the outdoors and having good ventilation inside.
* Sharing information with parents about the importance of the vaccination programme for young children to help protect them and the wider society from communicable diseases.
* Sharing information from the Department of Health that all children aged 6 months – 5 years should take a daily vitamin.
* Having areas for rest and sleep, where required and sharing information about the importance of sleep and how many hours young children should be having.

**Our procedures**

In order to take appropriate action of children who become ill and to minimise the spread of infection we implement the following procedures:

* If a child becomes ill during the nursery day, we contact their parent(s) and ask them to pick up their child as soon as possible. During this time, we care for the child in a quiet, calm area with their key person, wherever possible.
* We follow the guidance published by UK Health Security Agency for managing specific infectious diseases[[1]](#footnote-2) and advice from our local health protection unit on exclusion times for specific illnesses, e.g., sickness and diarrhoea, measles, and chicken pox, to protect other children in the nursery.
* Should a child have an infectious disease, such as sickness and diarrhoea, they must not return to nursery until they have been clear for at least **48 hours.**
* We inform all parents if there is a contagious infection identified in the nursery, to enable them to spot the early signs of this illness. We thoroughly clean and sterilise all equipment and resources that may have come into contact with a contagious child to reduce the spread of infection.
* We notify Ofsted as soon as is reasonably practical, but in any event within 14 days of the incident of any food poisoning affecting two or more children cared for on the premises.
* We have the right to refuse admission to a child who is unwell. This decision will be taken by the manager on duty and is non-negotiable.
* If a parent finds that their child has head lice, we would be grateful if they could inform the nursery so that other parents can be alerted to check their child’s hair.

Meningitis procedure

If a parent informs the nursery that their child has meningitis, the nursery manager will contact the Local GP. The GP will then give guidance and support in each individual case. If parents do not inform the nursery, we may be contacted directly by the GP and the appropriate support given. We will follow all guidance given and notify any of the appropriate authorities including Ofsted where necessary.

This policy will be reviewed at least annually in consultation with staff and parents and/or after a significant incident, e.g., serious illness and/or hospital visit required.

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| **This policy was adopted on** | **Signed on behalf of the nursery** | **Date for review** |
| *14/03/2025* | G.Searle | *14/03/2026* |

1. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/managing-specific-infectious-diseases-a-to-z> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)