



Day Nursery and Pre-school

Nursery Policy

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1. Statement of Aims and Objectives

Bright Beginnings believes that the health and safety of the children is of paramount importance. We make our setting a safe and healthy place for children, parents, staff and volunteers by assessing and minimising the hazards and risks to enable the children to thrive in a healthy and safe environment.

The risk assessment folder can be found in the main Nursery office and contains all the Risk Assessments relevant to all areas and equipment in the Nursery.

The underlying philosophy of the Nursery and Out of Hours School Club is a commitment to the promotion of the child's welfare and development. To this end, the principles of the childcare facility are, that it is:

<u>Child-Centered</u>	The children's needs in all their diversity do come first.
<u>Fundamental British Values</u>	The Nursery implicitly embed, within our everyday practice, the Fundamental British Values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs.
<u>Educational</u>	The Nursery will foster learning that takes into account the children's ages and stages of development.
<u>Multi-cultural</u>	It will reflect the plurality of the country as a whole and the particular community profile of Gravesend and Dartford.
<u>Healthy</u>	The childcare facility will promote good health for the children in a safe and secure way.

In order to achieve this, the following guidelines for the practice will be adopted:

1.1. Settling in period

Flexible settling in arrangements will ensure that the children have the opportunity to develop a relationship with staff before being left by the parents or carers. Visits to the Nursery by parents/carers with their children are an essential part of this settling in process. A child who cries when the parent/carer leaves but who can be distracted, has settled. One who sobs for a prolonged period has not. This will not be considered "normal" nor acceptable and staff and training or placement students will respond in a sensitive, caring and appropriate manner to a child during this period. Close liaison with a parent/carer will be maintained during this period.

1.2. Parent/Carer/Nursery/Out of School liason and parental involvement

As the closest possible links are desirable, if a child is to experience consistency in the way in which s/he is cared for, an “open-door” policy will be in operation to develop the trust of the parents’/carers’ and child’s staff in the Nursery/Out of Hours School Club.

Free and two-way communication should take place and the child’s progress discussed with the parent/carer on a regular basis. Any worries or concerns will also be discussed with parents/carer.

1.3. Working in Partnership

Bright Beginnings encourages partnership working with outside agencies in the local area.

Professionals from the Kent Advisory Team and the Specialised Teaching Team are welcome into the Nursery to advise on various aspects of children’s development.

Bright Beginnings also work closely with Children’s Centres in the area.

All relevant information will be shared with appropriate people to ensure well-being and safeguarding of the children in our care

1.4. Emotional needs of children

There will be an adequate number of trained and experienced staff to provide familiarity; responsiveness and mutal attachment; and to allow for continuity of relationships.

Staff are aware of the importance of:

1.4.1. each child being welcomed into the childcare facility each day;

1.4.2. not leaving crying children alone;

1.4.3. adopting acceptable and sound ways of dealing with unacceptable behaviour and conflict between children;

1.4.4. recognising signs of distress; and

1.4.5. Fundamental British Values:

1.4.5.1. Democracy: making decisions together

Every child will be encouraged and supported to build on their self-confidence and self awareness as cited in the Personal, Social and Emotional Development element of the Early Years Foundation Framework (“EYFS”).

1.4.5.2. Rule of Law: Understanding rules matter

Staff will ensure that children can manage their feelings and that their behaviour can bring about consequences and will help them to learn right from wrong.

1.4.5.3. Individual liberty: Freedom for all

We will be providing a wide range of activities which allow children to explore their feelings, reflect on their differences and allow them to have their opinion heard. We will aim for them to increase their confidence by providing new and challenging activities and finding time to talk about their experiences.

1.4.5.4. Mutual respect and tolerance: treat others as you want to be treated

Through play and learning experiences and celebrations, we will aim to show an appreciation and respect for other cultures, faiths and communities; we will promote an ethos of inclusivity and encourage and explain the importance of sharing and respecting others' opinions. We will provide resources and activities that challenge gender, cultural and racial stereotyping.

1.5. Play and Education

A range of play provision will be available, which ensures that physical, intellectual, emotional and social needs are catered for. Play materials will encourage children to value differences of race, gender and ability in others and themselves, being non-racist or sexist in nature and content and accessible to children with special educational needs. Television will be used sparingly and will involve preparation and follow up with the children. Staff will watch with the children.

1.6. Planning/Daily Routine

A guide to the daily routine will be available, so that staff, parents, students and visitors will be aware of what is happening. Children will also benefit from the security of a structured routine. However, the routine will be flexible and children will be free to choose activities from those made available to them.

1.7. Health

A high standard of health and hygiene is practiced throughout all aspects of the Nursery and opportunities to provide health education to the children maximised, especially through example.

Health and safety regulations are observed at all times and guidelines pertaining to HIV/AIDS/Hepatitis/B and the prevention of food poisoning and other infectious diseases adhered to.

Staff are expected to demonstrate the highest standard of personal hygiene.

The whole of the Nursery is a smoke free environment.

1.8. Food

Meals and food provided will follow national guidelines for healthy eating with children and will take into account the children's ages and stages of development. Whenever possible, children will be encouraged to make choices about food.

Special diets will be accommodated whenever possible. Parental/carer advice and expertise on special dietary requirements will be recognised and appreciated.

1.9. Safeguarding

The Local Authority/Local Safeguarding Children Board policies and guidelines on child protection are observed.

1.10. Equal Opportunities

The Nursery/Out of Hours School Club will reflect the diversity of backgrounds, cultures, religions, family structures and abilities from which its community is drawn.

1.11. Staff Development

Staff will be given opportunities and encouragement to update their skills and enhance their knowledge by taking advantage of suitable training courses and staff development.

2. Activities and Play Provision

2.1. Play

Play is the activity children enjoy most, from which they learn most; therefore, the Nursery/Out of Hours School Club aims to provide an environment that will foster a child's physical, emotional and social development and Language Development in line with the three prime areas of the Early Years Foundation Framework, which will then lead on to the four specific areas of learning which are: Creative Development; Understanding the World; Expressive Art; and Design and Mathematics.

Activities will be flexible and open-ended in order to take into account the differing stages of development and abilities of the individual

children. They will reflect a variety of races and cultures and be equally available to all the children.

As the various aspects of development are, to some extent, inter-related, one activity may well serve to stimulate more than one area of development; therefore, children will be free to choose from the following activities:

- 2.1.1 climbing, jumping and bouncing equipment;
- 2.1.2 natural materials to explore such as sand, water, clay, earth, etc;
- 2.1.3 construction toys (large and small);
- 2.1.4 puzzles;
- 2.1.5 pencils, crayons and paper;
- 2.1.6 paints – presented in different ways;
- 2.1.7 other creative materials and junk modelling, such as shredded paper and boxes;
- 2.1.8 settings for fantasy play;
- 2.1.9 home corner and dressing up clothes;
- 2.1.10 musical instruments and tapes;
- 2.1.11 books, stories and puppets;
- 2.1.12 dolls and small world equipment;
- 2.1.13 nature or interest tables etc;
- 2.1.14 heauristic play; and
- 2.1.15 a range of ICT equipment.

As language acquisition underpins all aspects of any early years' programmes, priority will be given to extending spontaneous talk and facilitating good language development.

Activities will be planned, so that foundations are made through active learning for the National Curriculum.

All members of staff will be involved with the individual planning and implementation of such activities for each individual child on a weekly basis.

2.2. . The Selection of Equipment and Toys

The toys and equipment in our Nursery/Out of Hours School Club provide opportunities for children, with adult help, to develop new skills and concepts in the course of their play and exploration.

The equipment we provide:

- 2.2.1 is appropriate for the ages and stages of the children;
- 2.2.2 offer challenges to develop physical, social, personal and intellectual skills;
- 2.2.3 feature positive images of male and female people, from a range of ethnic and cultural groups, both with and without disabilities;
- 2.2.4 includes a range of raw materials, which can be used in a variety of ways and encourage an open-ended approach to creativity and problem solving;
- 2.2.5 will enable children, with adult support, to develop individual potential and move towards learning outcomes;
- 2.2.6 will include child-sized tools and other equipment, which ensure all children learn from real life experiences; and
- 2.2.7 conforms to all relevant safety regulations and is sound and well made.

3. Equality of Opportunity

At Bright Beginnings, each child is valued as an individual, with equal regard and respect for their racial origins, religion, culture and home language.

We endeavour to provide access and facilities for children with special educational needs and make every effort to offer the care and opportunities to enable individuals to maximise their full potential, irrespective of race, culture, religion, gender or ability.

Within our daily curriculum, we offer a range of equipment and resources, which give the children an understanding of the multi-cultural and multi-ethnic society of Britain today. We endeavour to be sympathetic to cultural and religious customs and parents' wishes.

At Bright Beginnings, we acknowledge that good practice and positive role models enable children to develop positive attitudes to differences in race, culture, gender, language and ability. Prejudice and discriminatory practice will not be tolerated and we will actively challenge any behaviours which are not in line with the Fundamental British Values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs.

3.1. Professional Practice within Bright Beginnings that Reflects a Multi-Cultural Society

At Bright Beginnings, we acknowledge that good practice and positive role models enable children to develop positive attitudes to differences in race, culture, gender, language and ability, in line with the Fundamental British Values, we aim to achieve this by:

- 3.1.1 presenting positive images in the room, in particular, in the book corner and home corner;
- 3.1.2 presenting yourself as a good role model;
- 3.1.3 acknowledging what you do not know and be prepared to ask for help and advice;
- 3.1.4 challenging racist remarks, whether from children or from adults, whether directed against yourself or others;
- 3.1.5 answering children's questions about race and culture honestly, with explanations appropriate to the child's age;
- 3.1.6 making sure you pronounce and spell all the children's names correctly and understand the naming system of different cultures and religions. For example, 'Begum' is a female title often assumed to be a family's surname;
- 3.1.7 making sure you know and pronounce correctly the names of the garments the children wear and those they use for dressing up;
- 3.1.8 understanding the differing skin and hair care needs of all children;
- 3.1.9 encouraging children to have positive feelings about their skin colour;
- 3.1.10 discussing during activities, involving painting pictures of them, which helps children to know and appreciate what colour skin they have;
- 3.1.11 continually evaluating equipment and resources such as books, dolls, jigsaws and music, ensuring they reflect all cultures positively;
- 3.1.12 making sure there is varied menu, which will appeal to all children in the Nursery/Out of Hours School Club and which will introduce them to a varied and multi-cultural diet;
- 3.1.13 encourage all parents/carers to participate in the life of the Nursery/Out of Hours School Club;

- 3.1.14 if you have parents/carers who do not have English as a first language, make sure that all information is given clearly enough for all the parents to understand. An interpreter may be necessary;
- 3.1.15 challenge stereotypes, for example, assuming the girls will dress up as nurses and the boys as doctors;
- 3.1.16 ask all children to participate in all areas of the childcare facility life, including moving equipment and doing domestic tasks;
- 3.1.17 allow boys to cry and express their feelings. Do not expect boys to be 'braver' than girls. Most children enjoy cuddles;
- 3.1.18 never use gender to divide children into groups;
- 3.1.19 look at the expectations you have of children. A boy can comfort a distressed child, just as well as a girl. Disagreements leading to fighting are unacceptable in boys, as in girls; and
- 3.1.20 encourage all children to be assertive and stand up for themselves.

3.2. Special Educational Needs

At Bright Beginnings Nursery, we recognise that all children have the right to access a broad and balanced curriculum, allowing them to progress and learn at a pace and level, reflective of their individual abilities. The Nursery believes that all children have a right to gain experience and develop their knowledge and understanding, alongside their peers, no matter what their individual needs and are committed to the inclusion of all children.

This policy is reflective of the Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice 0-25 years, which came into place from January 2015, that is a product of the Statutory Guidance on duties, policies and procedures relating to part 3 of the Children's and Families Act 2014.

We aim to support and enhance the learning for children with Special Educational Needs (SEND) and Additional Educational Needs (AEN) through our policies and practices, where we aim to promote inclusion in the widest possible sense.

We aim to offer support according to the different strengths and needs of individual children and their families, by:

- 3.2.1 identifying a child who may have a SEND or an AEN through our admission procedure or by the regular observation, planning and evaluation process we have within the Nursery, in conjunction with the Early Years

Foundation Stage (EYFS) and the Best Practice Guidance, which will identify whether a child is a universal child, a child who may need some targeted support or whether a personalised targeted plan will need to be in place to support the child.

3.2.2 The new Special Education Needs Code of Practice states that children will be monitored under four main areas, which are:

3.2.2.1 Social, Emotional and Mental Health;

3.2.2.2 Cognition and Learning;

3.2.2.3 Communication and interaction and

3.2.2.4 Sensory and/or Physical needs.

3.2.3 When a child has been identified as having a SEND or an AEN, then the key person will discuss with the Nursery Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO), on how additional support can be put in place for the child and what level of support is required, this will then be implemented on the enhancement and planning sheets for the child.

3.2.4 Alongside this, the key person and/or SENCO will discuss with the parents and carers additional support, which is needed for the child, as well as the support, which may be needed for the staff within the Nursery to the support of the child. If it is deemed necessary, a member of the Local Authority, Equality and Inclusion Team, who will then be requested to visit the Nursery providing an Early Years Inclusion Request Form is sent off and approved. When they visit the Nursery, they will offer advice on whether a Local Inclusion Forum Team (LIFT) referral is required. During this visit, all parties involved with the child, will meet to discuss the way forward. During this meeting, permission is obtained from the parent or carer, to progress forward.

3.2.5 If speech or language is identified as being delayed and a hearing test has been undertaken, then a Speech and Language referral form can be completed with the parent and sent direct to the local speech and language team. A child with English as an additional language, will not be regarded as having a learning difficulty, solely on the basis that the language or form of language taught to them at home is not English. However s/he will be identified on the AEN register to ensure that they are fully supported within the Nursery.

3.2.6 All collated observations, referral information and development tracking grids will then be taken to the LIFT

meetings for the individual child to be discussed and a plan of support is put in place for that child, which may include other agencies becoming involved at that point. This is then discussed fully with the parent/carer to ensure their full involvement and co-operation.

- 3.2.7 If it is deemed necessary for a specialist teacher to visit the Nursery to support the child or give guidance to staff regarding target plans or to suggest that funding for financial support for the Nursery can be applied for. Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund (SENIF) funding is dependent on the needs of the child. If the child is in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) then the nursery can apply for Disability Access Fund (DAF) funding.
- 3.2.8 If, despite this, the setting has taken relevant and purposeful action to support and aid the child to make some expected progress, then it may be necessary to complete an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) Assessment, which is a formal request for a plan to be put into place for the child to secure the best possible outcomes for them, by bringing together, education, health and social care services, who will work together to meet the child's needs and support the achievement of the agreed outcome.
- 3.2.9 Throughout this process, the SENCO and key person will ensure that the parent or carer is fully updated and involved in the decisions regarding their child's well-being and development and will aim to follow up any other concerns or worries they may have.
- 3.2.10 A register will be kept in the SENCO file to identify both children who have identified as being SEND or AEN and this will be regularly updated with the SENCO and individual Key Person, to ensure that the child is being fully supported to ensure that they are progressing and developing to their level of ability.
- 3.2.11 The Nursery will ensure that:
 - 3.2.11.1 The child remains the key focus at all times and achievements will be celebrated, recognised, and shared with all parties.
 - 3.2.11.2 The premises remain suitable for all children, including those with special educational needs, including access for wheelchairs and extra wide buggies.
 - 3.2.11.3 A strong partnership with parents and carers is developed in a supportive professional manner.

3.2.11.4 A trained and experienced SENCO will be named for the Nursery, who will undergo the appropriate training for the role, alongside any other training, which may be necessary to meet the children's individual education and health care needs.

3.2.11.5 All staff who are involved with the child will be updated on the support in place for them and will also receive the relevant training to meet their needs, this includes children who may have a Health Care Plan, due to any medical conditions they may have, e.g. epilepsy, asthma.

3.3. Transition arrangements

We pass our reports and information on to the next setting or school, which your child will be attending, as requested by KCC. We attend relevant transition planning meetings.

3.4 Premises

Our premises are suitable for children with special needs, including wheelchair access. We have a discrete nappy changing area/toileting area.

3.5 Training

We are sometimes able to receive input from a visiting speech and language therapist and occupational therapists, whom we can contact for advice. Staff are released to attend training when possible. All staff will receive the same training, as the parents in individual cases from other professionals, to ensure the overall of the care of the child is adhered to at all times. Children who require additional medical intervention will have a health care plan and the Nursery will ensure that its staff are trained to administer the medication(s) required to the same level as the parents. All staff received first aid training every three years.

The named SENCO's for Gravesend Bright Beginnings are:

Lynne Tomlinson
Sarah Crowley
Leanne Tomlinson
Rebecca Potts
Justina Moody
Debbie Owen
June Read
Rachel Heath
Teresa Sales

The named SENCO for Dartford Bright Beginnings are:

Lynne Tomlinson;
Leanne Tomlinson;
Emma Taylor; and
Lynn Reader

4. Parents/Carers as Partners

The Children Act 2004 places a legal responsibility on providers of day care for children, to work in partnership with parents/carers, as partners in providing quality care for their children.

An “open door” policy will be in operation and all parents/carers will be welcome to visit the Nursery/Out of Hours School Club at any time.

Nursery/Out of Hours School Club policies and procedures will be available at all times to parent/carers.

Online and electronic observations and assessments will be carried out on tablets and on the IConnect childcare system.

A suggestion/comment box/book for parents/carers will be provided.

A contract between parents and the Nursery/Out of Hours School Club will be in operation, together with a recognised defined complaints procedure.

4.1 Working in Partnership with Parents/Carers

- 4.1.1. The Nursery/Out of Hours School Club should have a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. The staff should positively encourage parents to stay and observe the daily routine, particularly when the child first starts at Bright Beginnings. There is a notice board for parents/carers, which is kept up to date. A welcome poster is displayed, in different languages where possible.
- 4.1.2. When starting at Bright Beginnings, an information sharing session is important to share care plans, as well as “All About Me” booklets. All parents will be asked to complete a development starting grid based upon the parents’ knowledge of their child. It will also ensure that a good relationship is established between Parent and the Nursery.
- 4.1.3. Through Parent Zone the parents/carers will have access to their child’s records and will be encouraged to add photos and observations of their child/children when they are not at Nursery, which will give evidence to their child’s assessments and give opportunities to discuss the children’s progress and care, especially those who do not collect or bring their child to Nursery on a regular basis.

- 4.1.4. Avoid being patronising with parents/carers. Remember they are the experts on their own individual children. Listen carefully to what they tell you about their children. At the end of the session, try to communicate to the parent/carer the important aspects of the child's day, sharing negative and positive situations alike.
- 4.1.5. Respect all parents/carers as individuals and learn from them different ways of child-rearing. Their practice may be different from yours but no less valid. Be open to discussion of differences.
- 4.1.6. Be professional at all times and never discuss parents to other parents/carers or within the team. Refuse to listen to other people's gossip. If you should become aware of something, which might affect the welfare of the child, go to your Manager. Be careful not to jump to conclusions.
- 4.1.7. The Nursery/Out of Hours School Club may be near to where you live and you may be familiar with some of the parents/carers. You should be aware that this may have a bearing on confidential matters.
- 4.1.8. A parent/carer may wish to become very friendly with you and see you socially outside Bright Beginnings and, although very flattering, it is probably better to avoid this situation developing, as this might lead to ethical dilemmas and perhaps resentment from other members of the team.
- 4.1.9. When working with parents/carers from other cultures who do not have English as a first language, try to learn a few words of their language.
- 4.1.10. You may be involved in having to deal with an angry parent/carer. Listen to what is being said and keep calm. Do not respond angrily yourself. Seek the help of the Manager to assist with these types of situations.

4.2 Admissions

Bright Beginnings Nursery and Out of School care are committed to providing high quality childcare and is registered for a maximum of up to 66 children at Dartford and 110 at Gravesend per session, aged between three months and eight years.

It is our intention to make the Nursery genuinely accessible to children of local families and College students alike. In order to accomplish this we will:

- 4.2.1 divide available places between students who attend the college and families from all sections of the local community;

- 4.2.2 adjust the number of places allocated to a particular group according to the demand;
- 4.2.3 make our Equal Opportunities Policy widely known (a copy of this policy can be seen in the policy folder);
- 4.2.4 welcome families of all ethnic, cultural religious and social groups and those children with special needs and/or disabilities;
- 4.2.5 arrange our waiting list in order of vacancies in the appropriate childcare room;
- 4.2.6 offer flexible attendance schedules so as to accommodate the needs of individual children and their families, providing it fits in with the availability of each group;
- 4.2.7 ensure that students and all sections of the local community have the opportunity to apply for available places by advertising in, local shops, newspapers, clinics, libraries, surgeries and around the campus;
- 4.2.8 monitor the gender and ethnic background of children joining the childcare facility to ensure that no accidental discrimination is taking place; and
- 4.2.9 children will be accepted on free funding for 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds, which can be dependent on the parents/carers eligibility.

4.3 Settling In Procedures

- 4.3.1 Bright Beginnings staff will work in partnership with parent/carers to settle the children into the Nursery/Out of Hours School Club environment.
- 4.3.2 Flexible settling in arrangements will ensure that all children have an opportunity to develop a relationship with staff before being left by parents/carers.
- 4.3.3 Visits to Bright Beginnings by a parent/carer and child together will be arranged, so that the child can familiarise his/herself with the Nursery, especially for pre-school children.
- 4.3.4 For younger children, during the first few weeks, parents/carers will stay with the child for sufficient time, so the child feels settled and the parent/carer feels comfortable about leaving her/him. This arrangement should continue until the child feels at home within Bright Beginnings.

- 4.3.5 For the first few sessions, parents/carers may collect the child early, if they wish.
- 4.3.6 Staff will respond in a sensitive, caring and appropriate manner to a child during this period.
- 4.3.7 Parents/carers are encouraged to telephone the setting if they are worried about their child.
- 4.3.8 Parents/carers will be introduced to the child's key person.

4.4 Outings

All outings to be discussed with the Nursery Manager, to look at staff ratios, time, date and suitability of the outing for that age group.

Letters will be given to parents with all the details of the outing, together with a permission slip, that must be signed and returned, before the child can go on the outing.

The appropriate College online paperwork is completed for the outing and copies sent to the Risk Manager and Security. A Risk Assessment will also be carried out for all aspects of the outing.

The approved copies of the Risk Assessment will be kept in the Nursery.

If the minibus is being used, parents and carers will be required to provide an approved age appropriate car seat for their child. If no car seat is provided then your child or baby will not be allowed to go on the mini bus.

Minibus will be booked with a fully qualified driver, licensed to carry passengers, to be used for this purpose.

On the day of the outing, the register, contact details, first aid box and the Nursery mobile phones will be taken with them.

4.5 Collection of Out of School Children at Local School

- 4.5.1 a member of staff will take the register and high-visibility vests to the school;
- 4.5.2 staff will wear Nursery uniform and ID badges, so they are recognisable;
- 4.5.3 staff numbers will be appropriate to the number of children being collected but always a minimum of two staff;
- 4.5.4 staff will have a mobile phone in case of clarity of collection is required from the Nursery;
- 4.5.5 a designated point within the school has been established and is explained to new children and their parents;

- 4.5.6 children are marked off on the register and issued with a high-visibility vest;
- 4.5.7 the “walking bus” then makes its way to College in close formation. The children are in pairs and staff at the front and rear of the bus;
- 4.5.8 when on the College grounds, the walking bus uses the designated walkways or pathways; and
- 4.5.9 the headcount is then taken again when in the Nursery building.

4.6 Late Collection

Bright Beginnings actively encourages parents/carers to collect their child on time but sometimes things happen beyond your control to delay you.

In this case, we ask that you contact the Nursery/Out of Hours School Club as soon as possible. That way we can reassure your child that you will be arriving soon.

If the Nursery/Out of Hours School Club staff have not heard from you within 15 minutes of collection time, they will try to contact you or an emergency contact. If we are unable to contact you or the emergency contact, we will try for a further 15 minutes.

In cases where we have not received contact from you or the emergency contact, the staff will have the right to contact County Duty Office, recording that the child has been abandoned.

There will be a charge for late collection.

The charge for late collection of a child will be levied for the first half an hour, if no contact is made with the Nursery from the parent/carer. This will equate to £1 per child, per minute past 6pm.

If another person is then arranged to collect the child, a password and clear description of that person will be needed by the Nursery staff.

A letter will be issued to parents/carers who are persistently late.

4.7 Lost/Missing Child

Although every precaution is taken to ensure the safety of your child whilst in our care, we need to ensure we have a process/procedure in place to cover any circumstance if your child is lost or missing.

In the unlikely event of such an occurrence, the following procedures would be implemented:

- 4.7.1 staff will inform the Manager, or in their absence, the Deputy;
- 4.7.2 if, on-site, a member of staff will search the immediate area with the help of College security, including cupboards and the garden area;
- 4.7.3 if, off-site, the rest of the children will remain in one place with the other staff, whilst a staff member searches the immediate area and re-traces the route taken. The staff will also contact the venue's management/security team if appropriate;
- 4.7.4 the Manager will contact the Police, parents/carers, Deputy Executive Principal – Teaching, Learning & Improvement (or other Executive SLT member), Duty County Office and Ofsted;
- 4.7.5 the Manager will gather together all relevant information to give to the Police;
- 4.7.6 the College will carry out an investigation into what happened;
- 4.7.7 if any member of staff was at fault, the relevant HR procedure will be followed to address this;
- 4.7.8 all findings from the investigation would be relayed to the parents; and
- 4.7.9 any recommendations will be put into place/practice both on and off site for future activities.

We will make every effort to resolve the matter internally; however, at any time during these situations, parents/carers are welcome to discuss or take the matter further with **Ofsted**.

You can contact them at:	Piccadilly Gate Store Street Manchester M1 2WD
Telephone Number:	0300 123 1231

4.8 Looked After Children

Children attending Bright Beginnings full day care Nursery, who we know are cared for by carers, other than their natural parents, are given all due care and attention, as with all other children attending the facility but it is recognised the importance of the exchange of information between the carer and the Key Person/Manager in the Nursery.

In the event of an emergency collection, a pre-arranged password and information will be used.

Staff will communicate with the children about the upcoming event and why it is happening, according to their age and understanding.

4.9 Record Keeping

The Nursery/Out of Hours' School Club is required by law to keep records. A variety of records will be kept, containing essential information and some of this information will be stored on the iConnect system, on the Nursery computer and tablets. This information may include:

- 4.9.1 children attending the Nursery/Out of Hours' School Club;
- 4.9.2 two-year-old progress checks;
- 4.9.3 staff;
- 4.9.4 curriculum, activities, observation, individual planning and evaluation process;
- 4.9.5 routines, fire drills;
- 4.9.6 menus;
- 4.9.7 accidents, medicines, Out of Nursery Forms;
- 4.9.8 equipment;
- 4.9.9 finance;
- 4.9.10 correspondence;
- 4.9.11 risk assessments; and
- 4.9.12 complaints.

Records of a personal nature will remain confidential.

Records are an important part of Bright Beginnings administration and will be updated, monitored and evaluated regularly.

The Nursery/Out of Hours' School Club records will be open to inspection from relevant personnel e.g. Social Services, Ofsted, College Management etc.

Children's records are made available to the parents, via the Parent Zone system.

A review of the nursery data has been carried out. Under the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) guidelines, a risk

assessment has been undertaken, every safeguard has been put in place to protect your data.

4.10 Complaints Procedure

If a parent/carer has an issue involving their individual child or Bright Beginnings as a whole, they should raise this issue with either the Nursery Manager or the Deputy.

In the first instance, every effort will be made to resolve any matters in the Nursery, within 24 hours.

Should the matter not be resolved, the issue will be brought to the attention of the Deputy Executive Principal - Teaching, Learning & Improvement within a further 24 hours.

If the parent/carer feels unable, or unwilling to raise the matter in this way, they can approach the Deputy Chief Executive.

If the matter concerns a general or policy issue, it should first be raised with the Nursery Manager who will report it to the Deputy Executive Principal - Teaching, Learning & Improvement for consideration. Written records will be made; however, these are confidential and will not be shared.

We will make every effort to resolve the matter internally; however, at any time during these situations, parents/carers are welcome to discuss or take the matter further with Ofsted.

You can contact them at:	Ofsted Piccadilly Gate Store Street Manchester M1 2WD
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Telephone Number:	0300 123 4666
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We always welcome your feedback, as we are always striving to provide the best possible childcare provision.

5 Behaviour and Sanctions

In accordance with The Children Act 2004, corporal punishment has no place at Bright Beginnings, under any circumstances, even if the parent/carer gives permission.

Children respond more to praise and encouragement, than to punishment; therefore, every effort will be taken to foster a sense of self-esteem and self-discipline in all the children attending the Nursery/Out of Hours' School Club.

Much unacceptable behaviour, including bullying, can be avoided by good observation, anticipation and appropriate action being taken to diffuse potentially difficult situations by diverting the child's attention elsewhere.

Any sanctions that need to be applied should be made at the time of the incident, be as low key as possible and take into account the child's age and stage of development. They must be applied fairly and be relevant to the child's action or actions.

The child should always be told why his/her behaviour is unacceptable and the reasons for applying a particular sanction.

The Nursery Manager will take on the responsibility of behaviour management and will be available to offer support and advice to other members of staff.

If inappropriate behaviour persists, parent/carers should be informed by the supervisor or person in charge and be given the opportunity to discuss and agree strategies in the child's best interest. Strategies to encourage acceptable behaviour will be agreed, reviewed and practised by all staff. These will include ensuring that the children know the rules and what is expected of them. These rules will be reasonable and within the child's comprehension and ability. Acceptable behaviour will be encouraged by praise and positive reinforcement. Children will not be labelled 'bad' or 'naughty' etc. All incidents must be recorded and an incident form will be provided.

Staff will, at all times, act as good role models and react to situations in a calm and reasonable manner, being pro-active, rather than reactive.

6 Safeguarding Children

Bright Beginnings has a duty to be aware that abuse does occur in our society. This policy sets out the procedures that will be taken if we have a reason to believe that a child in our care is subject to either emotional, physical, sexual abuse or neglect.

Our prime responsibility is the welfare and well-being of all the children in our care. As such, we have a duty of care to the children, parents/carers and staff to act quickly and responsibly in any instance that may come to our attention.

Bright Beginnings will allocate a member of staff who is trained in child protection issues and procedures. This person will be available to offer support and advice to other members of staff, whilst maintaining confidentiality.

To allow us to voice our concerns and seek out any explanations, a meeting would be arranged with the relevant parents/carers before deciding on what action to take, if appropriate. However, a meeting may not be arranged if a child could sustain significant harm.

Bright Beginnings has a duty to make a referral of any suspicions around abuse or needs of the child to the County Duty Officer. This will be the responsibility of the Nursery Manager who will contact the County Duty Officer. Any written documents will be kept; however, confidentiality will be respected at all times.

The Nursery will also make a 'Channel' referral for any concerns, including periods of unexplained absence or comments and remarks that may indicate a child is vulnerable and at risk of radicalisation and would be deemed at risk under 'The Prevent Duty' 2015.

The Children Act 1989, along with the Children's Act 2004, places a duty on the Local Authority/Local Safeguarding Children Board to investigate such matters.

Bright Beginnings will follow the procedures set out in the Local Safeguarding Children Board Documents and, as such, will seek their advice on all steps taken subsequently. They may also have to inform Ofsted and the Police.

For advice regarding any Safeguarding issues, please ring 0300 423149

NSPCC Whistleblowing Helpline: 0800 028 0285.

If you prefer to speak with someone in the College, the North Kent College Safeguarding Officer is Rhiannon Hughes on 01322 629 583.

Designated Safeguarding Officer:

Lynne Tomlinson, Jemma Hudson, Sarah Williams –Gravesend

Lynne Tomlinson, Karen Barham – Dartford

6.1 Mobile Phone Policy and other Electronic Devices with Imaging and Sharing Capabilities Policy

Mobile phones and other devices are to be switched off prior to entering the Nursery premises, this includes the garden area.

All staff have the right and responsibility to ask parents and carers to turn their phones off before entering the building or wait for them to finish their call before allowing them access to the Nursery.

Staff will need to be aware of parents and carers using wearable tech devices and will have the right and responsibility to ask them to refrain from using them whilst they are in the building.

The following procedure is to be followed by all staff who enter the building:

- 6.1.1 Staff will switch their phone off when they start work.
- 6.1.2 Staff will be required to leave their phone in the office, in the case of emergencies the staff member must give the school and relatives the nursery main line number to contact in the event of an emergency.
- 6.1.3 At the completion of their shift or are on a break they may collect their phone and either leave the building to use or be used in the staff room only.
- 6.1.4 The mobile phone will be required to be kept off until they leave the premises.

- 6.1.5 Wearable tech devices must not be disconnected from their phones whilst in the group rooms or nappy changing areas whilst the children and babies are present. If your phone allows for images these must be declared to a manager or DSL and will be required to be left with the phone in the office.
- 6.1.6 The nursery has its own mobile phone, which is data enabled, the staff will be solely responsible for the phone and will be required to only use the phone for the purpose of having contact with the setting and parents in the even the nursery is evacuated, this will enable register checks to be completed if the tablets are out of WIFI range. No images of the children can be taken on the phone, unless permission is sought of the Designated Safeguarding Lead beforehand.

The emergency contact number is: 01322 629 777*

(*where security response will be co-ordinated for either site).

Second local numbers, not for emergency, are:

Dartford:	01322 629 443
Gravesend:	01322 629 641

Managers (Lynne Tomlinson, Sarah Williams, Jemma Hudson and Karen Barham) will also supply all staff with their Nursery mobile numbers, which they have on them at all times.

This is a STATUTORY requirement of the Early Years Foundation Stage and any breach of the policy could lead to dismissal.

6.2 Use of Cameras

Cameras should not be used within the Nursery grounds or grounds

6.3 E-Safety Policy

6.3.1 Policy Statement

At Bright Beginnings Nursery, we value children's safety and are committed to ensuring that e-safety is in operation at all times and works in conjunction with the Nursery and College Safeguarding Policy. This also works in line with the Information Technology Conditions of Use and the Mobile Device and Communication Policies and the policy on Dealing with Malicious Communication.

6.3.2 Introduction

As the Internet is regarded as an essential resource, as well as being vital for supporting teaching and learning and, computer skills are an essential life skill for future learning and employment, it is important for children to be shown how to be e-safe from an early age.

We have a duty to provide the children with a safe Internet environment and begin to highlight the dangers and risks and teach them how to respond responsibly to possible risks.

The three main principles of E-Safety are:

6.3.2.1 Guided educational use

6.3.2.1.1 Internet usage has huge benefits but should always be planned and supervised at all times, when using both the desktop and mobile uses.

6.3.2.1.2 Search engine sites “kidsclick” and “askclick” should only be used during these times.

6.3.2.1.3 Any materials derived from the Internet must comply with copyright law.

6.3.3 Risk Assessment

6.3.3.1 Individual usage by children should be limited to 10 minutes each.

6.3.3.2 Staff to check sites before children access them.

6.3.3.3 Access Internet via the College Network to ensure that safety filters are fully in place.

6.3.3.4 Manager to be informed if staff or children discover unsuitable sites and the safety event log needs to be completed and the Director of IT, Sean McCormick needs to be informed, as he is the E-Safety Officer within the College.

6.3.3.5 A flowchart and log is kept in the safeguarding folder in the Nursery office.

6.3.3.6 Children and staff are informed on what to do if they come across any material that they feel

uncomfortable with, including closing computer lid or turning monitor off.

6.3.4 Responsibility

- 6.3.4.1 E-Safety in the Nursery depends on staff, parents, carers and visitors all taking responsibility for the safe use of all internet usage and mobile devices.
- 6.3.4.2 It is the Nursery's responsibility to ensure that the access to the Internet is suitable and limited.
- 6.3.4.3 All staff are responsible for having a strong password to access the College system, which should be changed when prompted.

6.3.5 Email

- 6.3.5.1 The children will not have access to email at any time.
- 6.3.5.2 Staff will always log into their College email using their secure password from the computers based in the Nursery office or College.

6.3.6 Online communications and networking sites

- 6.3.6.1 The Nursery email address will be advertised on the website and all marketing documentation.
- 6.3.6.2 The Nursery does have a Facebook page, which links to the website. This is monitored and maintained by the College's Marketing Team.
- 6.3.6.3 Only photos of children with written permission will be used to show events and activities held at the Nursery.
- 6.3.6.4 All staff have the responsibility to protect their own online personal reputation and be aware of the impact on their professional roles and responsibilities, ensuring all communications with parents occur with clear, strong and concise professional boundaries in place, which are transparent and open to scrutiny.
- 6.3.6.5 It is recommended that staff do not state where they work on social media sites, as this action may increase the likelihood of inappropriate online relationships.

6.3.7 Handling Complaints

- 6.3.7.1 All complaints regarding this policy will be dealt with in line with the Nursery Complaints Procedure Policy.

6.3.8 Cameras

- 6.3.8.1 Written permission for photographs will be completed by the parent on the admission form and will be checked and verified prior to any photographs or videos being published.
- 6.3.8.2 Cameras purchased for use at the Nursery will only be used inside the Nursery or in the outdoor area.
- 6.3.8.3 All photos of children, which are stored on the computer, will need to be deleted after use and emptied from the recycle bin.
- 6.3.8.4 Photographs will not be stored on a memory stick, unless it has got an encrypted password.
- 6.3.8.5 Photos of the children will be used for displays and observations and will remain within Nursery premises.
- 6.3.8.6 Photos taken by parents, that include other children, must not be uploaded to social networking sites.

6.3.9 Tablet and IConnect System

- 6.3.9.1 Tablets that are purchased by the setting and deemed secure are only to be used within the Nursery.
- 6.3.9.2 Restrictions will be placed upon individual tablets to ensure no access to Apps other than IConnect is available on a day-to-day basis.
- 6.3.9.3 All children's, parents and staff details and photographs are protected under the IConnect and College Information Technology Conditions of Use Policy and comply with all required legislation.
- 6.3.9.4 All photographs and videos, which have been taken for use in observations and assessments, as per the IConnect User Guidelines, will only be used for this sole purpose and will be deleted from the devices within 48 hours.

6.3.9.5 The Manager, Deputy Manager and Room Leaders will monitor each tablet on a weekly basis to ensure that all tablets are being used for the purpose they are intended.

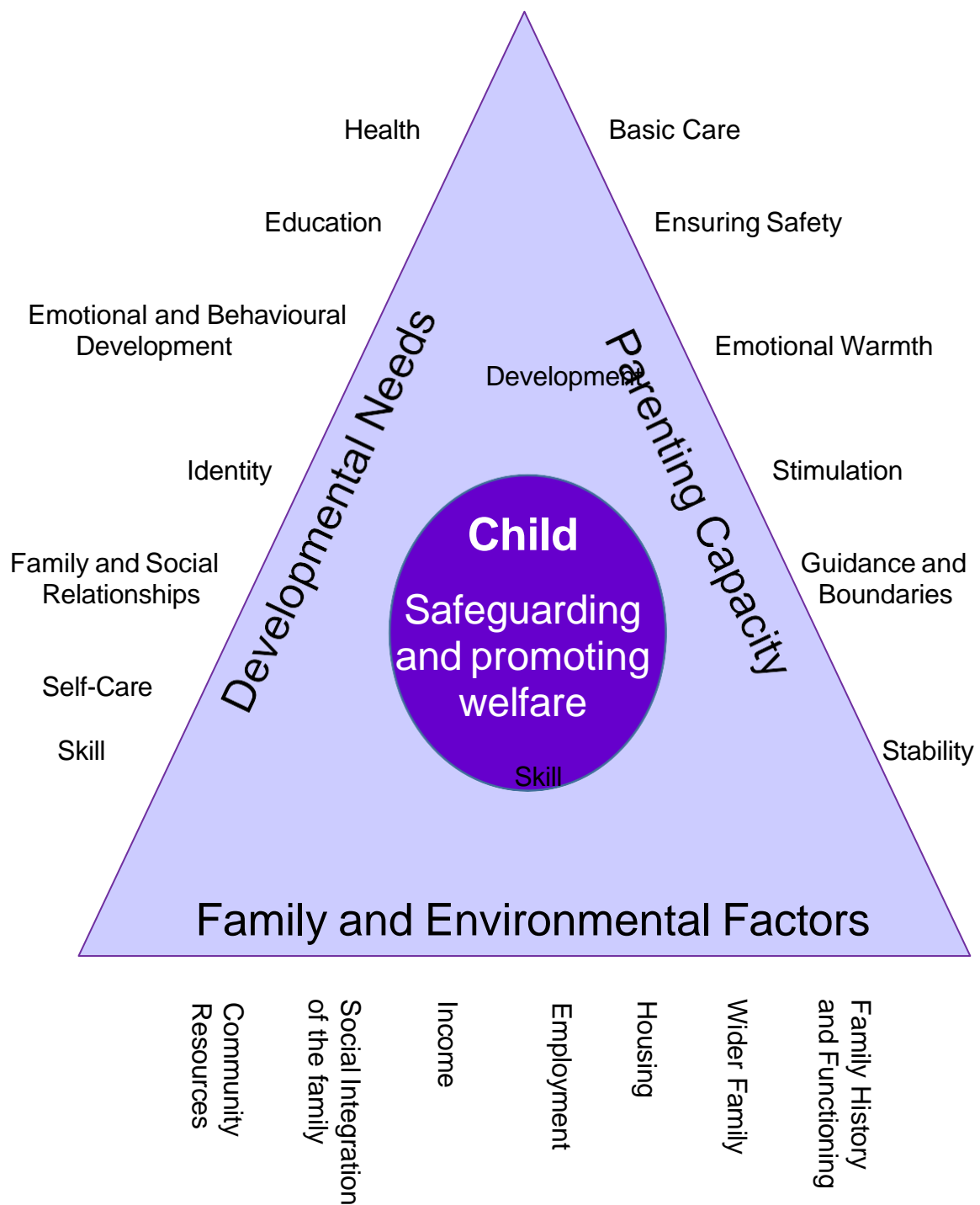
6.3.9.6 Misuse of the tablet will result in adherence to College policy and procedures.

The Appointed E-Safety Co-ordinator in the Nursery is:

Lynne Tomlinson

The Appointed E-Safety Co-ordinator in the College is:

Sean McCormick



Kent County Council

Children Families & Education

Children's Safeguards Unit

What happens if an allegation of abuse is made against a member of Bright Beginnings

Unfortunately, child abuse does occasionally take place in daycare settings, so we have introduced this separate policy to remind staff of the measures that can be taken to reduce the risk of any allegations being made against them or another member of staff. It also contains the procedure, which will be undertaken if an allegation is made against a member of staff. This complies with both the Early Years Foundation Stage (2021) and Kent Safeguarding Children Board Procedures.

How we can protect ourselves?

1. If a child sustains an injury whilst in our care, we will record it in the accident book as soon as possible. When the child is collected, we will inform whoever picks the child up about the injury and ensure that they also sign the accident book.
2. If a child arrives with an injury sustained elsewhere, we will ask for an explanation and again record this in the accident book and ask whoever has brought in the child to sign the record.
3. We will ensure that all staff undertake regular child protection training.
4. We will ensure that all parents understand our role and responsibility in child protection. Within the nursery this will be to parents in writing within the prospectus before the child begins to attend Bright Beginnings.
5. Our Behavioural Management Policy states that no physical sanctions will be used and we will ensure that everyone complies with it in all rooms within the setting.
6. We will try to avoid situations where an adult is left alone in a room with a child. If this does occur, we will make sure that the door is left open and there are other people around.
7. We will avoid engaging in rough physical play with children- as this may be misconstrued and could cause accidental injury to a child.
8. We will avoid doing things of a personal nature for children that they can do for themselves.
9. We will take up references, including one from the candidate's last employer, and will always question any gaps in employment history.
10. We will encourage an open door ethos, to enable staff to talk to senior managers if they have concerns about the conduct of any of their colleagues.

What happens if an allegation of abuse is made against a member of staff in the Setting?

1. If anyone makes an allegation of abuse against a member of our staff, the designated Safeguarding Lead (“DSL”) Lynne Tomlinson and Sarah Williams and Jemma Hudson Gravesend and Lynne Tomlinson and Karen Barham at Dartford will be informed immediately and will contact:

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) see contact list on page 34.

2. They will assess whether the allegation reaches the threshold for referral to Police/Children’s Social Services and advise accordingly regarding further action to be taken in respect of the child and the member of staff.
3. The *setting Designated Safeguarding Lead* will complete the appropriate form for recording allegations or complaints made against staff.
4. The *setting Designated Safeguarding Lead* will not discuss the allegation with the member of staff concerned, unless advised to do so by Children’s Social Services.
5. All staff need to be aware that it is a disciplinary offence not to report concerns about the conduct of a colleague that could place a child at risk. When in doubt – consult.
6. If Children’s Social Services and/or the Police decide to carry out an investigation, it may be possible that we will be advised to suspend the member of staff, whilst enquiries are carried out. The Bright Beginnings Nursery could also invoke their Disciplinary Procedure.
7. We will not carry out an investigation ourselves unless Children’s Social Services and the Police decide it is not necessary for them to do so. We understand that Ofsted may wish to undertake further investigations in some circumstances.

Always remember:

The welfare of the child is paramount

Guidance for managers completing Checklist for handling and recording allegations or complaints of abuse made against a member of staff regarding a child/children in their care.

1. Record the name and position of member of staff against whom the allegation or complaint has been made.
2. Verbal complaints should be backed up in writing by the complainant if appropriate; some may require immediate action that does not allow time for this to happen.
3. It is important to identify who made the complaint and whether it was received first-hand or is a concern that is passed on from somebody else. If this is the case it is better that you receive the information first-hand. If a parent, carer or a member of staff at Bright Beginnings makes a complaint against you it must be passed immediately to your line manager.
4. Record the full name, age and date of birth of the child.
5. The address recorded should be the address at which the child lives with the main carer.
6. If there are one or more alleged incidents, be specific as possible about dates that they are alleged to have happened.
7. Check the attendance register/diary of work to see if the child was present/seen on that day and the shift patterns of the staff member involved to see if they were working at that time. This will confirm the likelihood of the incident having taken place.
8. If you have received the complaint in writing attach it to the checklist. You can then summarise it on the form.
9. Any other information should be factual. It will be helpful if you can confirm things such as the level of contact that the staff member has with the child and any other minor concerns that may have been raised previously. Do not attempt to investigate the complaint yourself unless the **LADO** has handed back this responsibility to the employer.
10. Remember that if an allegation of abuse is made against a member of our staff you must inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead who will contact the **LADO** for further advice.
11. Ofsted must be informed if an allegation is made against a member of our staff, even if the **LADO** decides no further action is required. Ofsted may do their own investigation to ensure that registration requirements are being met.
12. Make a note of any actions the **LADO** or Ofsted advise you to take and the date or times at which you implemented them.
13. If the allegation is against one of the Designated Safeguarding Leads then you should speak to Rhiannon Hughes, the Head of the College Welfare and Safeguarding Team, Rebecca Skinner or the College Human Resources Manager, Kerrie Francis.

Checklist for handling and recording allegations or complaints of abuse made against a member of staff regarding a child/children in their care

- 1 Name and position of staff who is the subject of allegation(s)/complaint: _____
- 2 Is the complaint:

Written		Verbal
---------	--	--------

 (delete as necessary)
- 3 Complaint made by: _____
- Relationship to child: _____
- 4 Name of child: _____
- Child's age and date of birth: _____
- 5 Parent's/carers name(s): _____
and address: _____

- 6 Date(s) of alleged incident(s): _____
- 7 Did the child attend on the above date(s):

Yes		No
-----	--	----

 (delete as necessary)
- 8 Nature of complaint (if received in writing see guidance): _____

- 9 Other relevant information (continue on a separate sheet if needed): _____

- 10 Social Services contacted (date and time): _____
- 11 Ofsted contacted (date and time): _____
- 12 Further actions advised by Social Services Department and Ofsted: _____

- 13 Your name and position: _____

Signature

Today's date and time

Local Authority Designated Officer Contacts

The LADO Team deal with allegations against staff who work with children either in education or the wider workforce

If you need to speak to the LADO Team regarding an **allegation** against a member of staff **please call any member of the LADO Team number**. Your details will be taken and passed to the intake officer. The same intake officer will support you through the process until the matter has been resolved. Please note that the team no longer works on an area basis.

Other Key Kent Contacts

Integrated Front Door: 03000 411111 (outside office hours **03000 419191**)

Early Help Contacts (district teams) can be found on www.kelsi.org.uk

LADO Team contact number: 03000 410888

If your call is urgent i.e. a child is in **immediate danger and you cannot be connected to the team you should call the Integrated Front Door on
03000 41 11 11**

Email: kentchildrenslado@kent.gov.uk

Kroner House, Eurogate Business Park, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8XU

Area Education Officers

South Kent – David Adams 03000 410199

East Kent – Marisa White 03000 418794

West Kent – Nick Abrahams 03000 410058

North Kent – Ian Watts 03000 414302

Prevent Education Officers

North/West/ Medway - Sally Green sally.green2@kent.gov.uk 03000 413439

South/East - Jill Allen jill.allen@kent.gov.uk 03000 413565

Appendix 2

Health and Safety

All reasonably practical steps will be taken to ensure the health, safety and welfare of all persons using the Nursery/Out of Hours' School Club.

A safe and healthy environment will be maintained throughout and safe working procedures will be maintained by both staff and children.

Articles and substances will be labelled clearly, moved, stored and used safely and for the purpose intended.

Staff will be given adequate information, training and supervision to ensure that they avoid hazards and contribute positively to their own and others health and safety at work.

1. No smoking on the Nursery premises or grounds, it is a smoke free environment and smoking is only allowed on College premises in designated smoking zones. This includes all e-cigarettes and vapes.
2. No hot drinks in any room occupied by child/children.
3. No inappropriate nails or jewellery to be worn. One pair of stud earrings and a wedding ring are acceptable.
4. Dress code: black trousers and shoes with the Bright Beginnings t-shirt.
5. No running inside the premises.
6. Children should be encouraged to play outside in a safe environment.
7. Protective clothing should be worn when serving food.
8. Never leave scissors or potentially dangerous objects lying within reach of children.
9. All nuts, including peanuts, are not allowed in the childcare facility.
10. Only NVQ Level 3 or equivalent qualified members of staff to administer medicines and complete relevant paperwork.
11. No trainee student will be left unsupervised at any time and children must be supervised at all times.
12. Under no circumstances may a member of staff take a child from the Nursery/Out of Hours' School Club, unless written consent has been obtained from the parent/carer of the named child.
13. Safety and security checks both indoors and out are made every day.
14. All accidents/incidents must be recorded on the appropriate report form/incident slip.

15. A trained First Aider will be on duty at all times and a fully stocked first aid box is available.
16. All staff must be aware of the accident and emergency procedure.
17. Regular safety monitoring will include the checking of accident forms/incident slips.
18. If a child is to be collected by someone other than the parent or carer, a letter or phone call of authorisation must be produced and a password given.
19. Equipment will be checked regularly and dangerous items repaired or discarded. Large equipment will be erected with care.
20. Fire drills will be held regularly in accordance with the college and all staff made aware of the procedures. Fire doors must never be obstructed and extinguishers will be checked annually.
21. A register of both adults and children is completed as people arrive and amended when they leave, so that a record of all those present is available in the event of an emergency.
22. Activities such as, cooking, woodwork and energetic play will receive close supervision at all times.
23. Children resting will be checked regularly.
24. Whenever children are on the premises, at least two adults must be present.
25. Risk Assessments carried out in appropriate areas.
26. All Staff are to adhere to the nappy changing procedures that are to be found on the wall of the Nappy Changing Room. All guidance is given to staff during induction to Nursery.

Visitors

Visitors must be identified at the door of the Nursery by a staff member. If they are not able to identify the person satisfactorily, the staff member will ask the visitor to wait outside until they have been verified by the Manager.

No visitor will be allowed to use their mobile phone whilst on the premises.

All visitors will sign in the "Visitors' Book" which has the following statement displayed:

"Visitors are asked to adhere to all Bright Beginnings' Policies and procedures whilst in the Nursery. If Visitors are unsure of anything then they are to ask a member of the Nursery/Out of Hours' School Club Staff."

Visitors will be escorted at all times until they are handed over to the appropriate person in the Nursery/ Out of Hours' School Club.

Visitors must sign out when they finish their business and are to be escorted to the front door of the Nursery/ Out of Hours' School Club.

All visitors will be required to comply with the Nursery policies and practises and any acceptable behaviour will be actively challenged.

Hygiene

To prevent the spread of infection, adults in the Nursery/ Out of Hours' School Club will ensure that the following good practices are observed.

Personal Hygiene

- 1 Hands must be washed after using the toilet and before eating or preparing food.
- 2 Tissues will be available and all children will be encouraged to use them when necessary; soiled tissues will be disposed of hygienically.
- 3 Children will be encouraged to shield their mouths when coughing etc.
- 4 Paper towels will be used and disposed of hygienically.
- 5 Hygiene rules relating to bodily fluids will be followed (see accident procedures) any affected surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected.
- 6 Aprons and gloves to be worn and procedures adhered to when changing nappies or soiled clothes
- 7 Tabards to be worn at meal times, with tabards available for serving food only.

Food Preparation

1. A cook will be employed specifically for the preparation of the main meal.
2. Nursery staff will be responsible for the preparation of breakfasts and teas.
3. All Nursery staff must wash their hands before preparing food. They must also wash their hands during and after if handling different types of food.
4. Children must be excluded from the kitchen when meals are being prepared.
5. Cleaning materials and potentially dangerous kitchen utensils must be stored safely out of the reach of children.
6. Waste must be disposed of in a careful and appropriate manner.
7. All food should be covered and refrigerated where necessary.
8. Floors should be kept clean and spills mopped up immediately.
9. Cuts and sores on hands and fingers must be covered with a blue plaster.
10. No inappropriate jewellery to be worn. Stud earrings and a wedding ring is acceptable.
11. Protective clothing to be worn when serving food.

12. Wash fresh fruit and vegetables thoroughly before use.
13. Ensure all long hair is tied back securely.
14. Ensure that the correct chopping board is used for the different foods.
15. The dietary needs of the children should be taken into account when planning menus and also their likes and dislikes.
16. All surfaces are to be kept clean and clutter free and wiped down with the specific cloths.
17. All dates on food should be checked regularly and food which is out of date, thrown away.

Food Management Procedures

- 1 Meal times should be happy, social occasions for both children and staff.
- 2 Individual dietary requirements will be respected.
- 3 If a child does not finish his/her first course a small helping of dessert will be given.
- 4 Cultural differences in eating habits will be respected.
- 5 Children will be encouraged to wait before starting their meal until all the children have been served.
- 6 Conversation will be encouraged but not shouting and children will be encouraged to behave politely and sit still. Staff will set a good example by eating the same food as the children.
- 7 Children who are slow eaters will be given time and not rushed. Any child showing signs of distress will have the food removed with no fuss. Quantities given will take into account the ages of the child.
- 8 Menus will be displayed for the parents/carers to see and details of what the children have eaten during the day will be available to see on the Parent Zone.

Kitchen Reminder List

Please ensure that the cleaning rota is adhered to for daily, weekly and monthly cleaning.

Also the temperature check is carried out daily and recorded correctly.

Safer Food, Better Business ("SFBB") documentation needs to be completed.

All documentation as stated in SFBB from "Food Standards Agency" as recommended by the local authority.

Children Becoming Sick during Nursery Time

1. If a child has two or more bouts of diarrhoea and sickness during their time at Bright Beginnings, the parent/carer will be informed as soon as possible. The child will be comforted appropriately.
2. The child may not return to Bright Beginnings for at least 48 hours after the last bout of vomiting or diarrhoea.
3. If antibiotics are prescribed by a Doctor, the child must have taken them at home for the first 24 hours before coming back to Bright Beginnings.
4. If a child presents with a high temperature or a rash, parents/carers are notified in order for them to seek medical attention.
5. We will endeavour to ask parents/carers for the Doctor's diagnosis and guidance on the recommended incubation period which will be adhered to.

Giving of Medication

1. Staff must not administer unprescribed medicines unless attending the baby units and for the purpose of teething or at the Manager's discretion.
2. Medication/antibiotics will only be given to a child if the child has taken them for a minimum of 24 hours at home before returning to Bright Beginnings, if appropriate.
3. Children on medication for controlling conditions such as epilepsy or diabetes may only be given medication with the written consent of the parent/carer and this medication can only be administered by a NVQ Level 3 or equivalent member of staff. Staff will be trained to the same level of training that parents/carers receive.
4. Health Care Plans will be completed with parents and reviewed on a regular basis for all child who may have ongoing health concerns or required in line with doctors and specialists.
5. Nursery/ Out of Hours' School Club staff must ensure that a witness is present when administering medication and that the dosage and time of application is recorded immediately. Both members of staff must sign the relevant form with all entries countersigned by parent/carer at the end of each day.

Medication must be kept in a locked cupboard or fridge.

6. The medication must be clearly labelled with the child's name, dosage and instructions.

Warm Weather

Each year we are experiencing higher temperatures and UV rays, and the need to protect the children's delicate skin is essential.

Please supply a sunhat with their name inside as these will need to be always worn in the garden.

Drinking plenty of water will be encouraged and we will also supply ice poles to keep them cool.

The babies and children will not go out in the garden between the hours of 10.30am and 3.30pm due to the sun's UV rays being at their highest.

When we are expecting warm or hot weather the babies and children will often go out in the garden at breakfast time or very soon after, so once a day suncream should be applied prior to coming into nursery, whether is this at breakfast time or after lunch.

All suncream should be above Factor 30 and have a suitable UVB protection and if possible, be waterproof.

Any children who are attending the nursery for a full day will have suncream reapplied prior to going back out into the garden in the afternoon.

Nursery will purchase and apply children's factor 50 suncream and will use Nivea, Ambre Solaire or ASDA brand suncream. (Dependant on availability).

If you wish your child to have a different suncream then you will be required to bring a bottle into nursery which is clearly labelled with their full name.

Any baby or child who is allergic to creams and lotions or have and dermatological skin conditions will be required to complete a Health Care Plan, so we have a clear plan on what we need to do if the child has a reaction to encountering sun cream.

Parents/Carers will be required to sign a consent for the application of the sun cream before it can be applied.

Cold Weather

During spells of cold weather we will require a child to have the appropriate outdoor clothing and footwear to allow them to play outside during the day at Bright Beginnings.

Appropriate clothing should consist of a coat, hat, gloves and scarf. Suitable footwear must also be provided which could include a pair of wellingtons or sturdy shoes.

Accident Procedures

Major Accident

Staff must wear protective clothing (disposable apron and gloves) at all times when dealing with body fluids.

If a major accident occurs, the procedure is:

1. The supervisor will assess the situation and follow the first aid procedures.
2. If the child needs to go straight to hospital an ambulance will be called. The parent/carer will be contacted and arrangements will be made to meet them at the hospital. A member of staff will accompany the child at all times but will not sign any consent forms for treatment to be carried out.
 - 2.1. If it is possible for the child to wait for their parent/carer, then he/she will be made as comfortable as possible and a member of staff will stay with the child until the parent/carer arrives.

It will then be for the parent/carer to decide whether to go to the hospital or not.

3. The incident will be recorded in the accident book as well as on the IConnect system.
4. Ofsted will be informed, if appropriate, within 48 hours in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework, using the Serious accidents, injuries and deaths procedures that registered providers must notify to Ofsted and local protection agencies for guidance.

Minor Accident

If a minor accident occurs, the procedure is as follows:

At all times the staff must wear protective clothing (disposable gloves and aprons).

1. The injury is assessed and, if necessary, the Manager or Deputy is called.
2. The child is taken into a quiet area, if appropriate.
3. The injury is then treated.
4. The child is then resettled back into the Nursery/ Out of Hours' School Club and observed.
5. The incident is recorded on to an accident form and a copy given to parents/carers.

Accident Book/Records

1. One sheet per child to be completed in the event of an accident.
2. Accident books will back-up the electronic version. Should there be an incident which prevents the electronic version from being accessed, the paper-based copy will be shown to the parent, so that they are aware of any accident that may have occurred
3. An additional incident form to be given to the parent in the event of a head injury or if the child as inflicts an injury on another child.
4. Out of Nursery forms to be completed if a child attends Nursery with a noticeable injury.

Fire Drill Procedures

In the event of a fire or on hearing the fire alarm an adult must lead all the children in an orderly manner with the register to a safe place.

Allocated area:

DARTFORD – At the side of X Block and the back of Miskin

GRAVESEND – all rooms to converge outside of H Block

The most senior Manager will check the premises, close all doors and proceed to the allocated area.

On arrival, the Nursery Manager will check the register and count the numbers of children, staff and students.

Meanwhile another adult will dial 01322 629 777 (College Emergency Phone Number) and Security need to verify the fire and, only they, can summon the Fire Service.

NOTE:

Do not attempt to extinguish the fire until all the children in your care are in a safe place or if the fire has reached such proportions as to endanger your life.

THE STAFF MUST ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THE CHILDREN AS THEIR FIRST PRIORITY.

Fire drills will be held regularly. The Nursery Manager will record in the register when a fire drill has been held.

Emergency Closure and Evacuation Procedures

Due to unforeseen circumstances, e.g.: **flooding, loss of power, heating, bad weather, fire, damage to building or staff sickness** an emergency closure or evacuation may be required and the following procedures must be followed. (This will link into the existing fire drill).

Emergency Closure

1. Once a decision has been made by the Manager or Deputy, parent/carers will be contacted by the Manager/Deputy as soon as possible and informed of the impending closure, via IConnect and North Kent College's Website. Notification will also be posted on the College's Website.
2. Every effort by staff should be made to contact parents/carers before leaving home, therefore giving them the opportunity to make alternative arrangements.
3. If safe to do so, Manager/ Deputy will remain on the premises, so that they are available to answer any queries etc.

Evacuation Procedures

1. If Bright Beginnings is unsafe, the Manager will find a safe and secure area/room to be used as a waiting/collection area for the children.
2. Children will be escorted by staff, led by the Deputy Manager, with the register to the chosen area/room in an orderly manner.
3. The Manager will check the Nursery building is empty; collect a charged tablet/iPAD.
4. On arrival, the Manager will take the register and complete a head count.
5. The Manager will arrange collection of the children by contacting and informing parent/carers of the situation.

6. If a parent/carer cannot be contacted, the second emergency person provided by the parent/carer will be contacted.
7. The staff will supervise the children until collected by the relevant person.

Animals in the Nursery

The children in Bright Beginnings learn about the natural world in various ways as part of the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. This may include contact with animals, either in the Nursery or in organised outings.

If an agency comes to the Nursery, i.e. Zoo Lab, the appropriate risk assessment will be undertaken.

When considering a pet for the Nursery, the views of the parents and staff will be considered with a view to hygiene, safety and allergies.

Research will be carried out to ensure the correct housing, food and holiday care are arranged for the pet.

If the children can hold the pet, they will be taught how to handle it safely and will wash their hands afterwards.

Appendix 3

Staff Development and Training

In-service training will be an essential part of the on-going work and development of the staff in order that they may develop their full potential to the benefit of the children in the Nursery/ Out of Hours' School Club.

Staff will be expected to keep up to date with new developments in the field of childcare and education. Training and staff development needs will be identified and staff will be encouraged to avail themselves of staff development and training programmes from both internal and external sources.

These may occur out of hours or at weekends.

Appendix 4

Staffing and Employment

A high adult : child ratio is essential in providing good quality child care – these are:

for under 2 year olds:	1:3;
for 2 year olds:	1:4; and
for 3-7 year olds:	1:6 or 1:8

At Bright Beginnings, we follow the guidelines laid down by Ofsted as a minimum.

Staff meetings are held to discuss day to day issues with the Nursery and for staff to receive updated training and information based on EYFS.

Regular team meetings are held to provide:

1. Opportunities for staff to plan topics and themes following the national curriculum and taking into account the early learning goals.
2. Discuss the children's' progress and any difficulties they may have.
3. To air their views and update policies.
4. Bright Beginnings operates an equal opportunities employment policy and will treat all applicants fairly. No applicant will be rejected on grounds of race, gender or disability.
5. All staff must hold relevant qualifications.
6. The key person system ensures each child and family has one particular staff member who takes a special interest in them in our full day care facilities.
7. Regular training is available to all staff members (please see Staff Development and Training).
8. Bright Beginnings supports the staff by means of regular monitoring and appraisals.
9. All staff are required to have relevant police Disclosure Barring Service ("DBS") and health checks.
10. All staff are required to complete a disqualification by association declaration document on admission and on a yearly basis.

New Staff Induction Procedures

On their first day, new staff are given the following support and information to help them adapt to their new position and feel confident within the Nursery/ Out of Hours' School Club.

1. A meeting with the Manager/Deputy who will use this opportunity to:
 - 1.1. explain operational procedures and policies;
 - 1.2. identify the childcare facilities aims and objectives;
 - 1.3. gather personal information;

- 1.4. explain shift patterns, lunch breaks, annual leave procedures and the reporting of sickness etc.;
 - 1.5. show relevant documentation; and
 - 1.6. discuss future training and staff development.
2. Completion of the form – first day induction for all staff and students to Bright Beginnings.
3. All new staff are encouraged to ask questions and will be required to complete an Induction Process online.

Student Placement

We are committed to providing high quality work experience for North Kent College Students.

Students are welcomed into Bright Beginnings on the following conditions:

1. the welfare and development of the children will be paramount at all times;
2. students will not be admitted in numbers, which may hinder the essential work of the Nursery/ Out of Hours' School Club and staff;
3. students who are required to make child studies must obtain written permission from the parents/carers of the children who are being studied;
4. any information gained by the students about the children, families or other adults in Bright Beginnings must remain confidential;
5. students will not be part of the staff- children ratio but will have to hold a current DBS; and
6. completion of the form – first day induction for all staff and students to Bright Beginnings.

Appendix 5

Confidentiality

Our work with children and their families will sometimes bring us into contact with confidential or sensitive information.

To ensure that all those using and working in the childcare facility can do so with confidence, we will respect confidentiality in the following ways:

Access to the children's files will only be given to the parents/carers of that child, their key worker, the Nursery Manager or relevant child care professionals.

1. Sensitive data, as defined in the Data Protection Act (information relating to racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or other beliefs, trade union membership, physical or mental health condition, sex life, criminal proceedings or convictions), will not be disclosed to third parties, or anyone other than the key worker, Nursery Manager or relevant child care professionals, except in the furtherance of Child Protection.
2. Staff will not discuss individual children, except for the purpose of the curriculum planning, group management and for the protection of the child.
3. Any anxieties/evidence relating to a child's personal safety will be kept in a confidential file and will not be shared within the group, except the child's key person, Nursery Manager or relevant childcare professional.
4. Students on training placements will be advised of our confidentiality policy and be required to abide by it.
5. Information given by parent/carers will remain confidential unless it involves a child protection issue.
6. Please see below – Privacy Notice – Data Protection Act 2018

PRIVACY NOTICE for pupils in schools, early years settings, alternative provision and pupil referral units

Privacy Notice – Data Protection Act 2018

We, at Bright Beginnings, are the Data Controller for purposes of the Data Protection Act. We collect information from you and may receive information about you from your previous school. We hold this personal data and use it to:

- 6.1 support your teaching and learning;
- 6.2 monitor and report on your progress;
- 6.3 provide appropriate pastoral care; and
- 6.4 assess how well your school is doing.

This information includes your contact details, national curriculum assessment results, attendance information, characteristics such as ethnic group, special educational needs and any relevant medical information.

We will not give information about you to anyone outside the school without your consent, unless the law and our rules permit it.

We are required by law to pass some of your information to the Local Authority (LA), and the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF).

If you want to see a copy of the information we hold and share about you, then please contact – Lynne Tomlinson, Nursery Manager.

If you require more information about how the LA and/or DCSF store and use this data, please go to the following websites:

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/about-the-council/contact-us/data-protection.htm> and

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk_doc/13856/dcsf%20what%20we%20do%20with%20Children's%20data%20v4%20final.doc

If you are unable to access these websites, please contact the LA or the DCSF as follows:

Access to Information
Kent County Council
Room 2.35
Sessions House
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Public Communications Unit
Department for Children, School &
Families Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3BT

Tel: 01622 696692

website: www.dcsf.gov.uk

email: info@dcsgsi.gov.uk

Tel: 0870 000 2288

Code of Conduct

As an employee of Bright Beginnings, our aim is to protect all parties involved within the setting. The following policies will need to be adhered to when staff have contact with parents outside of the setting, whether it is babysitting, social events or contact through social network sites such as 'Facebook'.

1. Safeguarding Children from harm;
2. Confidentiality;
3. Data protection;
4. Whistle blowing; and
5. Allegations against staff
6. Babysitting Policy

If any of the above policies are breached in any way, then a full investigation will be undertaken and the appropriate necessary action will be taken.

Babysitting Policy

We appreciate that parents and carers put a great deal of trust in us when caring for their child or children in the nursery, so it is understandable that they may approach you to undertake babysitting in their home.

As a College, we cannot support our staff undertaking babysitting duties in respect to any children who are placed in our nurseries. We have revised our Policy in September 2023 to reflect the "no babysitting" expectation so that no safeguarding concerns can be raised by a parent, regarding a staff member, which could ultimately impact on the member of staff's role within the Nursery.

"Whistle Blowing"

If a member of the staff of Bright Beginnings found out something that was not right, was illegal or damaging to the well-being of the Bright Beginnings Nursery name, children or staff, they should follow this policy:

Tell the Manager of the Nursery, or one of the Deputies, if appropriate.

If it is about the Management of the Nursery, then the staff member should tell the Deputy Executive Principal - Teaching, Learning & Improvement or Deputy Chief Executive.

If the matter is still unresolved, or of such a serious matter, then the Deputy Chief Executive will be informed and, together with the HR Manager, investigate the matter thoroughly with disciplinary procedures starting if appropriate.

Ofsted will be informed, if appropriate.

Ofsted have a whistle blowing hot line available for you to call: 0300 123 4666

Education Safeguarding Service Contacts

Headquarters:	Sessions House County Hall Maidstone Kent ME14 1XQ	03000423169
Online Protection:	Sessions House County Hall Maidstone Kent ME14 1XQ	03000423164
North Kent:	Worrall House 30 Kings Hill Avenue West Malling Kent ME19 4AE	03000423149
South Kent:	Kroner House Eurogate Business Park Ashford Kent TN24 8XU	03301 65 13 40
East Kent:	Brook House Reeves Way Whitstable Kent CT5 3SS	03301 65 11 40
West Kent:	Worrall House 30 Kings Hill Avenue West Malling Kent ME19 4AE	03301 65 14 40

Appendix 7

Incubation and Exclusion Periods of Common Infectious Diseases

Disease	Signs and Symptoms	Usual Incubation Period (Days)	Interval between onset of illness and appearance of rash (Days)	Minimum of Exclusion provided child appears well
Chicken Pox	Slight fever, irritating rash	10 - 21	0-2	Seven days from appearance of rash: all the scabs have dried up
Diarrhoea and Vomiting		1-7	-	Until 48 hours after cessation of diarrhoea/ vomiting
Food Poisoning	Vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain	0 - 2	-	Until declared fit
German Measles	Slight cold, sore throat, slight fever, enlarged glands behind ears, pains in small joints	14 - 21	0 - 2	Six days from onset of rash
Measles	Misery, high temperature, heavy cold with discharging nose and eyes, later harsh cough, conjunctivitis	7 - 21	3 - 5	Four days from onset of rash
Meningitis	Headache, fever, vomiting, neck stiffness, joint pains, drowsiness or confusion, dislike of bright lights, rash of red purple spots	2 - 10	-	Until clinical recovery and bacteriological examination is clear
Mumps	Fever, headache, swelling of jaw in front of ears, difficulty opening mouth	12 - 28		Five days from onset of swelling
Scarlet Fever	Sudden onset of fever, sore throat, vomiting, "strawberry" tongue, flushed cheeks, pallor around mouth	2 – 5	1 - 2	24 hours after commencing antibiotics
Whooping Cough	Acute respiratory catarrh, paroxysms of coughing	5 - 14	-	Five days after antibiotic treatment or 21 days if not given antibiotics
Hand/Foot Mouth Disease	Small blister in these areas – very contagious	7 – 10 days to end of attack	-	None - at managers discretion

Appendix 8

Exclusion Periods of the Common Infections

Disease	Signs and Symptoms	Minimum Period of Exclusion
Impetigo	Yellow, oozing sores with scab on top; itching; usually around nose and mouth	Until spots have healed and 48 hours after antibiotics given.
Pediculosis (Head Lice)	Head scratching; presence of nits (eggs) – white specks which are stuck to hair, presence of lice – small insects which move along hair	None
Verrucae (Plantar Warts)	Small solid growths on feet	Exclusion from barefoot activities until certified free from infection
Ringworm of Scalp or Body	Circular red, raised area with white scaly centre; itching; if on scalp, hair breaks off	Until adequate treatment instituted,
Threadworm	Presence of threadworms in stool (white cotton-like pieces; sore anus; itchy bottom; sleeplessness; lack of appetite	Until adequate treatment instituted
Scabies	Burrows visible as red raised spots especially between fingers; intense irritation, sleeplessness	Until adequate treatment instituted
Conjunctivitis	Red swollen eyes, yellow discharge from eyes, very itchy	24 Hours with treatment
Slap Cheek	Red marks across cheeks	None, but vulnerable children and pregnant people need to be warned of a case of slap cheek

CALPOL – will not be given to a child unless it has been prescribed by a GP. The Nursery Manager or Deputy will make an informed judgement if CALPOL is to be given to a child, to prevent further distress and discomfort. Babies under two will only be given one dose of CALPOL for teething in any 24-hour period.

Advice must be sought at all times from a General Practitioner or Health Visitor especially where there is any doubt