

Greenwich House Independent School

Illness and Exclusion Policy

Greenwich House Independent School including the Kindergarten and Creche ("Greenwich House") follows the Guidance on Infection Control in Schools and other Childcare Settings (updated 21 March 2021) (the Guidance). A copy of this guidance is attached and the internet link for the same is as follows:-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-child-care-facilities>

This policy should also be read together with Greenwich House's Infectious Disease Control Policy.

At the time of the review of this policy, additional and alternative procedures and practices are being followed in respect of **Coronavirus Covid-19** and this policy should be read in light of and subject to these procedures and practices. These procedures and practices have, where appropriate, been provided to employees, parents and carers and pupils as well as other effected parties

Greenwich House aims to promote a healthy environment for the children in our care and we need the parents' co-operation to support this.

If a child is ill and, in particular, if they have an infectious or contagious disease (including sickness and diarrhoea), it is in everybody's best interests, and certainly the kindest type of action for the child, if they do not attend school and they recuperate at home.

If a child becomes ill at Greenwich House, every effort will be made to contact the parents/carers. It is essential, therefore, that Greenwich House is in possession of up to date information in order to be able to contact parents/carers during normal hours. If the parents/carers cannot be contacted, the staff will endeavour to contact the named contacts on the child's record.

If Greenwich House Staff are unable to contact a parent/carer or other named contact Greenwich House reserves the right to take the child to a general practitioner or hospital in an emergency. Parents/carers will be required to give signed consent for this procedure on registering their child at Greenwich House.

Greenwich House also follows HSE recommended guidelines for infectious disease control and any exclusion periods. It is acknowledged that these apply to staff and visitors as well as pupils. Public Health England's Exclusion table can be accessed on the link below:-

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/789369/Exclusion_table.pdf

Once a child is better, they should return unless they pose a risk of infection to others. They should, in such cases, not return until the risk of infection has passed.

Any advice regarding the correct course of action in individual cases should be referred to a child's parents or carers or their own GP. Parents are asked to take their child to the doctor before returning them to Greenwich House.

Greenwich House reserves the right to refuse admittance to children who have a temperature, sickness and diarrhoea or a contagious infection or disease. The exclusion periods referred to in the Guidance will not preclude Greenwich House exercising this right if a child, particularly a child who is still infectious or contagious, is still unwell and/or taking medication to mitigate an illness. Where appropriate Greenwich House will seek advice and/or act in accordance with guidance obtained from Public Health England.

Notification of exposure to infectious diseases.

If a child contracts an infectious disease, other parents will be informed in writing/email and via the Information Boards located on the premises.

If Greenwich House has reason to believe that any child is suffering from a notifiable disease identified as such in the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) regulations 1988, we will inform the local Public Health England Centre , and, if required, Ofsted. We will act on any advice given by Public Health England and, when required inform Ofsted of any action taken. The Health Protection Agency's list of notifiable diseases can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england> and is displayed on the Information Boards within the setting.

Further guidance can also be found on the Public Health England website.
East Midlands - Tel: 03442254524

Signed on behalf of the setting by;

..... Head Teacher

Date : revised March 2012
reviewed October 2015
reviewed August 2017
reviewed August 2018
reviewed September 2019
reviewed November 2019
reviewed November 2020
reviewed March 2021

Addition to Illness Policy – Covid 19

What happens if someone becomes unwell at an educational or childcare setting?

If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature in an education or childcare setting, they must be sent home and advised to follow the

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-how-it-works#people-who-develop-symptoms-of-coronavirus>.

If a child is awaiting collection, they should be moved, if possible, to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door, depending on the age of the child and with appropriate adult supervision if required. Ideally, a window should be opened for ventilation. If it is not possible to isolate them, move them to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people.

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

PPE should be worn by staff caring for the child while they await collection if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained (such as for a very young child or a child with complex needs).

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

If a member of staff has helped someone who was unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves (and in which case, a test is available) or the child subsequently tests positive (see 'What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in a setting?' below). They should wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell. Cleaning the affected area with normal household disinfectant after someone with symptoms has left will reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people.

What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in my child's school, college or childcare setting?

When a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 10 days and get a test.

Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 10 days (if the test returns as positive). All staff and students who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 we will contact our local health protection team. This team will also contact us directly if they become aware that someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 attended the school – as identified by NHS Test and Trace. We will work with the health protection team to carry out a rapid risk assessment to confirm who has been in close contact with the person during the period that they were infectious, and ensure they are asked to self-isolate.

The health protection team will work with us in this situation to guide us through the actions we need to take. Based on the advice from the health protection team, we will send home those people who have been in close contact with the person who has tested positive, advising them to self-isolate for 10 days since they were last in close contact with that person when they were infectious.

Close contact means:

- face-to-face contact including being coughed on or having a face-to-face conversation within 1 metre
- been within 1 metre for 1 minute or longer without face-to-face contact
- been within 2 metres of someone for more than 15 minutes (either as a one-off contact, or added up together over one day)

The health protection team will provide definitive advice on who must be sent home. Household members of those contacts who are sent home do not need to self-isolate themselves unless the child, young person or staff member who is self-isolating subsequently develops symptoms. If someone in a group that has been asked to self-isolate develops symptoms themselves within their 10-day isolation period they should follow 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection'.

What happens if a child is unwell with other symptoms?

If a child is unwell we need to ask parents to be particularly cautious and upfront with the school. If a child requires paracetamol (calpol or equivalent) then we would ask that your child remains at home. This is due to it potentially masking a raised temperature. If a child isn't well in themselves please also ensure they stay at home. If a child visits a doctor and has confirmed reason for their symptoms eg, tonsillitis, then when they are well enough they can return to school even if they are finishing a course of treatment.

With sickness and diarrhoea we will be adhering to the strict policy of 48 hours clear from the last bout of either sickness and or diarrhoea (no matter how long or how many times this occurs). No child should be in school during this time.

We are aware that general coughs and colds may still be prevalent and to keep staff and children as safe as possible in school and therefore when they return home, we need parents to be on the side of caution at this time. This way we can do everything in our power to keep school open and as many children accessing education as much as possible as we move forward.