

Immunisation Policy

The purpose of this policy is to promote the health, wellbeing and safety of all children, families and staff within our nursery by supporting recommended childhood immunisations and reducing the risk of vaccine-preventable infections spreading within the setting.

We recognise that immunisation is an important part of protecting children and the wider community from serious infectious diseases.

This policy follows current guidance issued by the **UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA)**, NHS and the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). The UKHSA Green Book provides the latest national guidance on vaccines and vaccination procedures.

This policy applies to:

- All children attending the nursery.
- Parents and carers.
- All nursery staff.
- Students, volunteers and agency staff.
- Visitors where relevant.
- The Nursery Manager/Registered Provider.

The nursery is committed to:

- Promoting the importance of routine childhood immunisations.
- Supporting parents and carers to access reliable vaccination information.
- Working in partnership with parents, health visitors, GPs and other health professionals.
- Maintaining appropriate and confidential health information.
- Following current UKHSA and NHS guidance.
- Taking appropriate action where a vaccine-preventable infectious disease is suspected or confirmed.
- Protecting children and adults who may be particularly vulnerable to infection.
- Following appropriate infection prevention and control procedures.

The nursery does not provide medical advice or make decisions regarding a child's suitability for vaccination. Parents should discuss individual medical circumstances or vaccination concerns with their GP, practice nurse or health visitor.

Routine Childhood Immunisations

Parents and carers are encouraged to ensure that their child's vaccinations are kept up to date in accordance with the current NHS childhood immunisation programme.

The national routine immunisation schedule changed significantly from **1 January 2026**. It now includes a new vaccination appointment at **18 months** and the introduction of the combined **MMRV vaccine**, protecting against measles, mumps, rubella and chickenpox.

For children attending nursery, the current pre-school programme includes:

- **MMRV** at around 12 months.
- **MMRV** at around 18 months.
- **dTaP/IPV booster** at around 3 years 4 months.
- The annual childhood **flu vaccination programme**, where eligible.

The nursery will refer parents to the current NHS/GOV.UK immunisation schedule rather than maintaining its own vaccination timetable, as national recommendations may change.

As part of the nursery registration process, parents/carers will be asked to provide relevant information about their child's immunisation status where appropriate.

Parents/carers should inform the nursery of any significant changes to their child's health or immunisation circumstances.

Information will be:

- Recorded accurately.
- Kept confidential.
- Stored securely.
- Accessed only by staff who need the information to fulfil their responsibilities.
- Shared with health professionals or statutory agencies only where there is an appropriate legal, safeguarding or health-protection reason.

The nursery recognises that children may not have received all recommended vaccinations for a variety of reasons.

These may include:

- Medical reasons.
- Delayed vaccinations.
- Missed appointments.
- Catch-up vaccination programmes.
- Parental decisions.

Children will be treated fairly, respectfully and without discrimination.

A child will not automatically be refused a nursery place solely because they are not fully immunised.

However, if there is a suspected or confirmed outbreak of a vaccine-preventable infection, the nursery will seek advice from UKHSA, the local Health Protection Team or another appropriate health professional.

Where health protection professionals advise that particular children should temporarily remain away from the setting, the nursery will follow that advice.

Infectious Diseases and Outbreaks

If a child, staff member or other person attending the nursery is diagnosed with a significant infectious disease, the nursery will follow current UKHSA guidance.

The nursery will:

1. Seek advice from the local Health Protection Team/UKHSA where appropriate.
2. Follow recommended exclusion periods.
3. Inform parents/carers where appropriate.
4. Maintain confidentiality.
5. Increase cleaning and infection-control measures where required.
6. Keep appropriate records.
7. Follow any additional measures recommended by health protection professionals.

The nursery will particularly follow public health advice where there is a suspected or confirmed case of measles, mumps, rubella, chickenpox or another vaccine-preventable infection.

Measles, Mumps, Rubella and Chickenpox

The nursery recognises that measles, mumps, rubella and chickenpox can spread easily and that vaccination provides important protection.

From 1 January 2026, MMRV is part of the routine childhood vaccination programme, with doses offered at approximately 12 and 18 months.

If a child is suspected of having measles, the nursery will follow current UKHSA guidance and seek appropriate health protection advice.

Parents will be advised to seek medical advice where appropriate and not to bring a child with a suspected infectious disease into the nursery contrary to current exclusion guidance.

After Vaccination

Parents/carers should inform the nursery if their child has recently received a vaccination and provide any information relevant to the child's care.

If a child becomes unwell while attending nursery following vaccination, staff will follow the nursery's normal illness and emergency procedures.

The nursery will not administer medication following vaccination unless this is covered by the nursery's Medication Policy and the appropriate parental consent and medication procedures are in place.

Staff Immunisation

The nursery encourages staff to maintain vaccinations recommended for them through the NHS and to seek advice from their GP or occupational health provider where appropriate.

Staff must inform the Nursery Manager if they have been diagnosed with a significant infectious disease or have been advised by a healthcare professional or Health Protection Team that they should not attend work.

The nursery will follow current UKHSA advice regarding staff exclusion and infection prevention.

Infection Prevention and Control

Vaccination is one important part of preventing the spread of infectious disease. The nursery will also maintain effective infection prevention and control procedures.

These include:

- Regular and effective handwashing.
- Good respiratory hygiene.
- Use and safe disposal of tissues.
- Regular cleaning and disinfection.
- Appropriate cleaning of toys and equipment.
- Safe nappy-changing procedures.
- Appropriate handling of bodily fluids.
- Safe food hygiene.
- Appropriate management of laundry.
- Appropriate disposal of waste.
- Good ventilation where appropriate.
- Following recommended exclusion periods for infectious illnesses.

All staff will be expected to follow the nursery's Infection Prevention and Control Policy.

Information for Parents and Carers

The nursery will provide parents/carers with appropriate information regarding immunisation and infectious diseases.

Parents will be directed towards reliable sources of information, including:

- NHS vaccination information.
- GOV.UK childhood immunisation guidance.
- UKHSA guidance.
- Their GP or practice nurse.
- Their health visitor.

The nursery will not promote misinformation or provide personal medical advice.

Confidentiality

All information relating to a child's immunisation status will be treated as confidential.

Information will only be shared with:

- The child's parents/carers.
- Relevant nursery staff where necessary to safely care for the child.
- Healthcare professionals where appropriate.

- The Health Protection Team/UKHSA where required.
- Regulatory or statutory agencies where there is a legitimate requirement.

Staff must not discuss an individual child's vaccination status with other parents, children or unauthorised persons.

Equality and Inclusion

The nursery will ensure that children and families are treated fairly and respectfully regardless of their vaccination status.

We recognise that families may have different circumstances and that some children may be unable to receive particular vaccinations for medical reasons.

The nursery will work with families and relevant health professionals to ensure that appropriate arrangements are made where additional risks are identified.