**Pandemic Policy**

**Covid 19 Symptoms**

The main symptoms of Covid-19 are:

* a high temperature
* a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
* a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

**(Source:-** <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-in-children/> **25th July 2020)**

The UK Government released guidance on outlining their expectations that early years providers and primary schools should plan to begin a phased reopening to a wider group of children beyond those who meet the key worker and vulnerable group criteria.

Following a review of this guidance, and additional information received from Brighton and Hove Council, the following procedures will be implemented at Patcham Village Pre-school.

**(Please note these procedures will be subject to regular review in line with future government or local guidance)**

**Prevention:- ‘System of controls’**

This is the set of actions early years settings must take. They are outlined in more detail below.

1) minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend settings

2) clean hands thoroughly more often than usual

3) ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach

4) introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often using standard products, such as detergents and bleach

5) minimise contact between groups where possible

6) where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)

Numbers 1 to 4 must be in place in all settings, all the time.

Number 5 must be properly considered, and settings must put in place measures that suit their particular circumstances.

Number 6 applies in all specific circumstances.

**Response to any infection:**

7) engage with the NHS Test and Trace process

8) manage confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the setting community

9) contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice

10) notify Ofsted

Numbers 7 to 10 must be followed in every case where they are relevant.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures>

**Social distancing**

Government guidance recognises that early years age children cannot be expected to

maintain a 2 metre distance from each other and staff, by sending your child/ren back into pre-school parent/carers are acknowledging this.

Staff will be expected to adhere to social distance throughout the day.

**Arrivals and departures**

‘Parents and carers should not be allowed into the setting unless this is essential, and children should be dropped off and collected at the door if possible’. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures>

**In line with Patcham Village Pre-school’s Corona-virus risk assessment, Parents and carers will be asked to give daily confirmation that child/household are symptom-free and have not been give ibuprofen or Calpol within the last 48 hours. If a children has been given either they will be unable to attend until such a time they have not received medication within the last 48 hours.**

Children will be asked to arrive no earlier than 8.55am. Only one parent must drop off and collect at anytime. We ask please that parents and carers adhere to social distancing when dropping off and picking up children. Parents and children will enter pre-school through the main gates and together only as far as the pre-school main door. No parents/carer will be permitted to enter the building.

**Staff will be unable to take distressed children from parent’s arms in line with government guidance – social distancing. If children are distressed at being dropped off, parents and setting will work to find a resolution.**

Pick-up will remain the same as before this crisis, but we ask please that you position yourself in the garden while all the time adhering to the 2m distance.

Our hours may reflect the crisis we are in currently, and it may be necessary for us to close earlier to allow for deep cleaning at the end of each day.

**Personal hygiene:**

Every child will be supported to wash their hands on arrival, and every 30 minutes thereafter alternating between soap and hand sanitiser, also before and after eating and toileting.

Nappies will continue to be sent home – double bagged.

During intimate care, staff will wear full PPE – visors, masks, gloves and aprons.

**If a child has a loose stool they must go home immediately.**

**Outings beyond pre-school:**

All outings and visits beyond the pre-school gates will be suspended during the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Lunch**

Children’s lunches must be placed in a wipe clean Tupperware type box and not a fabric lunch bag. Children will continue to eat together, but may be staggered in groups as the number of children staying for lunch increases; this will ensure that such times are safe, but still an invaluable social time for them.

**Natural ventilation**

Much of our day will be spent in the garden since science tells us the virus is less prevalent in an outdoor environment, however, we acknowledge this may not always be possible when the weather is very bad; in these instances it will be necessary for us to open all windows inside to create a healthier indoor environment. Children should arrive at pre-school with appropriate clothing for in and outdoor play.

A large gazebo will be erected in the garden to accommodate play in all weather types.

**Sun Protection**

Children must arrive having all day sunscreen applied. We do have a supply should you forget.

**Staffing:**

As is current practice if a child becomes seriously ill we will phone 999 immediately and then inform

you.

If a child or adult has collapsed, emergency first aid will be administered at the scene while we wait for the ambulance to arrive; we will take medical advice at the time in relation to CPR.

If a child falls and requires minor first aid this will be provided by a trained member of staff as always.

**If a child begins to show any symptoms of Covid19 and it is safe to move them**

They will be moved to the committee room (quarantine room) for quarantine until collected; one adult in full PPE will sit with the child.

Only one adult will support in the quarantine room – no other staff members must enter that room unless explicitly requested to do so by a senior member of staff or emergency worker. If any adult shows any signs of covid-19 whilst at work, they will be sent home to isolate. After such an event the committee room will undergo a deep clean and will be off limits to children and staff for 72 hours.

**Visitors**

No agencies will be permitted access to pre-school during this crisis, all support for SEND children will be done so remotely. Prospective parents will be guided to our virtual tour of the setting; inside and out. Visits should be kept to the garden area. No visiting children will be allowed access at any time.

‘Parents and carers should not be allowed into the setting unless this is essential, and children should be dropped off and collected at the door if possible’. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures>

Only if new children are unable to settle without parents/carers we will deem settling new children as essential for the emotional well-being of both parent/carer and child. Access will be granted only within the outdoor play environment to settling parents when they will be asked to follow government guidance in relation to social distancing.

**Children’s spare clothes**

Back packs should contain spare clothes for all children and intimate care supplies for children in nappies.

On arrival all the underside of children’s shoes will be cleaned with an antibacterial wipe.

This policy was adopted by Patcham Village Pre-school on 28th July 2020 and replaces that which was previously adopted 20th May 2020..

Signed

Date