Albert Village Nursery
Sickness and Illness Policy

Albert Village Nursery aims to provide a safe, secure and healthy environment for all children and adults attending the nursery, and to avoid the spread of illness. We will always follow the advice given to us by the Public Health Agency, (please see attached form) however children with specific contagious conditions, (e.g. sickness and diarrhoea, chicken pox, hand foot & mouth. Impetigo and conjunctivitis) will have to stay away from nursery until the illness is cleared to protect the health and wellbeing of other children, staff and other parents. Please ensure you speak to the Nursery Manager BEFORE returning your child to nursery.

This policy is about children's attendance at nursery when they are unwell. As a general principle, children should not be in nursery when they are ill, both for their own welfare and also in order to protect the other children and staff from becoming ill. In specific situations the Nursery Manager may accept an official letter from a doctor explaining why an already diagnosed condition may cause a child to be physically sick but not to be contagious, therefore the appropriateness of attending nursery or not will need to be determined on a case by case basis. Usually though any form of sickness is a sign that a child is unwell and therefore they should not be in nursery. Ultimately, the nursery has the right to refuse admission to a child who is unwell/potentially contagious: this decision will be taken by the Nursery Manager and is non-negotiable.

• If a child becomes ill during the session, their parents/carers will be contacted and asked to pick their child up as soon as possible. During this time the child will be cared for in a quiet, calm area with a member of staff. Should the staff deem the child well enough for nursery but feel the parents/carers should be informed they will be contacted immediately. On arrival parents/carers are informed of exactly what has happened and may be asked to fill out the accident/incident book.
• Should a child have an infectious illness, such as sickness and/or diarrhoea, they should not return to nursery until they have been clear for at least 48 hours. Potential infections such as impetigo, chicken pox, hand foot and mouth and conjunctivitis the child may only return to nursery at the discretion of the Nursery Manager.
• If a contagious infection is identified in the nursery, all parents will be informed to enable them to spot the early signs of this illness in their own child. Where possible all equipment and resources that may have come into contact with a contagious child will be cleaned and sterilized thoroughly to reduce the spread of infection.
• It is important that children are not subjected to the rigours of the nursery day, (which requires socializing with other children and being part of a group setting), when they have first become ill and require a course of antibiotics.

Our policy,therefore, is that children on antibiotics for the first 24 hours of the course should not attend nursery. This is also to ensure that children are not allergic to any prescribed medicines.

• Information about treating head lice is readily available and all parents/carers are requested to check their children's hair regularly. Children with head lice do not need to stay away from nursery, they do however need to be treated before attending nursery. If a parent/carer finds that their child has head lice, we would be grateful if they could inform the nursery so that other parents can be alerted to check their child's hair. This information will remain confidential and documentation regarding the treatment of head lice will only be given out to the session the child attends (AM or PM). If a child is identified as having head lice while in nursery, parents/carers will be informed immediately and asked to treat their child's hair. Nursery staff do not openly check for lice but occasionally lice are seen easily while children play.

COVID-19 – if a child tests positive for Covid they may attend nursery if well enough.

It is the parents/carers responsibility to ensure they inform the staff on arrival if their child has been a little under the weather, so that the staff can monitor the child throughout the session.

We would prefer that antibiotics are given prior to attending nursery however, if this is not possible we may administer antibiotics so long as the child in question has been given 24 hrs worth beforehand and a medical request form has been completed. Cases will be decided on an individual basis. All staff are level 3 qualified or above and have agreed to give prescribed medicines with another staff member observing.

• If a child has a serious accident or becomes severely unwell at nursery an ambulance will be called.

• Whilst waiting for the ambulance, the parents/carers will be contacted and arrangements will be made to meet them at the hospital (or at nursery if this is more appropriate).

• A member of staff will accompany the child taking relevant medical information, medication, and anything else deemed necessary, until parents/carers are present.

• Children who witness an accident may well be affected by it, needing lots of support and reassurance. Staff not involved with the sick or injured child will move children to areas away from the emergency, reassure children and keep the routines as normal as possible.

The health and safety of all our children, parents and staff is of paramount importance to us.

January 2023 Review date: January 2025