



COSHH, Health and Infection Control Policy

Policy Statement

Bradpole Preschool works in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations 2002 (as amended), the Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992 (as amended), the Health and Safety (First-Aid) Regulations 1981, the Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 (as amended), and the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework.

We aim to provide a healthy and safe environment for all children, staff, volunteers, and visitors. We will do all within our power to prevent the spread of infection and promote good health and well-being.

The Preschool Leads, Sally Parmiter and Nikki Moss and Health and Safety Officers, Nikki Moss and Lisa Hunt are responsible for ensuring that health and safety procedures are implemented and monitored within the setting. The Health and Safety Officers are responsible for reporting incidents to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) in accordance with the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 2013.

The following may be reportable under RIDDOR:

- Deaths and specified injuries.
- Occupational diseases.
- Dangerous occurrences.
- Certain gas incidents.

Reportable incidents will be reported to the HSE within the timescales required by current legislation.

Smoking and Vaping

Bradpole Preschool operates a strict no-smoking and no-vaping policy. Smoking and vaping are prohibited inside and outside the preschool premises and on the Sir John Colfox School site.

Infection Control

Infection can spread rapidly in an early years setting amongst children and adults. We follow guidance issued by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and other relevant public health bodies to reduce the spread of infection.

- If we have reason to believe that a child is suffering from a notifiable disease, we will follow current public health guidance and notify Ofsted and other agencies where required. We will act upon any advice received from health professionals or public health authorities.
- Parents/carers are required to keep children at home if they are suffering from an infectious illness and to inform a member of staff of the nature of the illness so that appropriate precautions can be taken.
- Parents/carers must inform preschool if they have given any medication to their child before arrival (for example, paracetamol or an inhaler).
- Children attending the setting should be well enough to participate in normal preschool activities.
- For safeguarding and welfare reasons, children must not be dropped off at preschool while asleep. Parents and carers are required to remain with their child until they are awake and staff are able to complete the usual handover process.
- If a child becomes unwell during the session, parents/carers will be contacted and may be asked to collect their child.



COSHH, Health and Infection Control Policy

- If parents/carers cannot be contacted, alternative emergency contacts will be called and the child will be made as comfortable as possible until collection. It is therefore essential that emergency contact details are kept up to date.
- If a child develops a high temperature whilst attending preschool, staff will follow the Medicines Policy. Paracetamol will only be administered where prior written parental consent has been provided, or where verbal consent is obtained from a parent/carer at the time it is required. Parents/carers will be contacted and asked to arrange collection of their child as soon as possible.

Exclusion Periods

A full list of current exclusion periods is available from:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/managing-specific-infectious-diseases-a-to-z>

The following exclusion guidance must be followed:

- Gastric upset – Children must remain away from preschool until 48 hours after the last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting.
- Fifth Disease (Slapped Cheek Syndrome) – No exclusion period is required once the rash has appeared. Pregnant individuals should seek advice from their GP or midwife.
- Fever or throat infection – Children should remain at home until they are well enough to participate fully in activities and are 48 hours free from fever.
- Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease – Exclusion is not normally required, although this may be necessary at the discretion of the setting if a child is unwell. The preschool may seek advice from the Health Protection Team if a significant number of children are affected.
- Chickenpox – Until all spots have crusted over.
- Rubella (German Measles) – Four days from the onset of the rash.
- Impetigo – Children may return 48 hours after commencing antibiotic treatment or once lesions have crusted and healed.
- Head Lice – Parents/carers should begin treatment as soon as head lice are identified and inform a member of staff.
- Verrucae – Should be appropriately covered when necessary for activities.

Children who have undergone a procedure requiring a general anaesthetic should remain at home for at least 24 hours following discharge from hospital and should only return to preschool when they are fully recovered, comfortable, and able to participate in normal activities. Parents/carers must inform the preschool leads of any aftercare instructions, restrictions, or medication requirements before the child returns to the setting.

If parents/carers are unsure whether their child should attend, they are encouraged to contact the preschool before the session begins.

A well child is a child who is happy, comfortable, able to participate in normal activities, and does not require regular medication to manage symptoms whilst attending preschool.

Further guidance on common childhood illnesses and infection control is available via UKHSA guidance.



COSHH, Health and Infection Control Policy

The Environment

- Good hand hygiene helps reduce the spread of illnesses such as influenza, stomach upsets, and other infections. Wall-mounted soap dispensers and paper towel dispensers are available to children and staff.
- Children are encouraged and supported to wash their hands thoroughly throughout the day.
- All spillages of blood, urine, faeces, and vomit are cleaned and disposed of safely following infection control procedures.
- The red bucket is used to wash the floors.
- Single-use, non-latex gloves and aprons are worn when changing nappies or handling clothing contaminated with blood, urine, faeces, or vomit, including cleaning changing areas and potties.

Outdoor Clothing

- Parents/carers who settle their child at the start of a session are asked to wipe their shoes before entering the preschool.
- Children should wear sensible, well-fitting footwear suitable for preschool activities, no flip flops, open toed sandals or crocs.
- The outdoor play area is checked daily before use.
- Outdoor sandpits are covered when not in use and cleaned regularly.
- As we play outside in all weather conditions, children should bring a warm coat during colder weather. Waterproof clothing and wellington boots are available at preschool.
- On sunny days, children should wear a sun hat. Children may bring their own or use one provided by the preschool.
- Parents/carers are asked to apply sun cream before attendance. Where sun cream requires reapplication during the day, it should be clearly named, given to a member of staff, and a parental permission form completed. The preschool also has Boots Children's Sensitive SPF 50 sun cream available for use with parental consent.
- Drinking water is available at all times, and children are encouraged to drink regularly, particularly during hot weather and after physical activity.

References

- UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) – Health Protection in Children and Young People Settings
- Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 2013
- Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework

This policy was adopted by the Bradpole Preschool Committee

During the Summer Term 2026

Date to be reviewed Autumn Term 2027