

Coronavirus Covid 19 – Policy Statement

This document is based on our COVID 19 re-opening Risk Assessment: September 2020.

St Paul's Church Nursery School aims to provide a safe and healthy workplace and learning environment for all staff, children, families, carers and the local community. In these uncertain times as the corona virus continues to develop, our priority is to work within the government guidelines, Public Health England. We will regularly review our documents in line with the additional information and updates to ensure we are with the constantly changing COVID rules, regulations and making sure mitigations are in place.

We reopened on 9 June, at limited capacity for 3 days a week, when the Government encouraged Early Years' Settings to open back for the older children along with prioritising children of key workers and vulnerable children. We put additional and robust measures in place to facilitate this and we successfully provided for 2 bubbles of 8, with 2 members of staff affiliated to each bubble.

From September 2020 we no longer have to separate the children into bubbles. We have maximum capacity, which amounts to 26 per day once all are settled, and practitioners will not wear PPE on a general daily basis and these children are the accepted St. Paul's Church Nursery School Bubble. Any adult on the premises will need to wear a mask and be respectful of social distancing, not touching our resources and abiding by current governmental guidelines. This is in line with our 'Settling in Policy' (of which all parents and carers have to acknowledge they are in agreement) and also applies to staff who are not practitioners.

Visitors, such as parents settling their children, need to sign the Visitors' book as part of the Track and Trace system.

All parents are asked to adhere to the 2metre social distancing rule to protect our staff and themselves.

Procedures

Since St Paul's Church Nursery School successfully and safely re-opened during lock down, we have been following increased cleaning according to our constantly monitored Risk Assessment, arrival and collection policies as well as our settling in policies (adapted from 2 bubbles to one in the Autumn term).

The Nursery has implemented increased hygiene and is cleaned each evening, the staff set up each morning and clean constantly throughout the day. High-touch points are re-cleaned. We are thorough in maintaining hygiene standards to avoid possible contamination and transmission.

Handwashing is frequent. We insist on regular handwashing before snack, after coming in from outside, after a cough or sneeze or touching eyes, nose and mouth (with sanitising) and before lunch. Songs are sung to make these washes for 20 seconds. Toilets are cleaned

when they are used, children are encouraged to sneeze and cough into their elbows and independently use a tissue to “catch it, bin it, kill it”. Children are given visual prompts to encourage binning their tissues and adhering to hygiene requirements in a child friendly way.

Environment and Resources

The indoor environment is well ventilated, with open windows and doors as weather permits. We have constant all weather free flow for outdoor play (within safety precautions). Our ethos continues to encourage outdoor play and Forest school experiences. We are aware that our natural environment reduces stress and helps to facilitate the children’s play needs and offers an enabling learning area for them. The government has acknowledged that the risk of transmission is significantly reduced outdoors.

Since our Nursery is now functioning on a single bubble basis, the children are able to share resources. Some restrictions have been introduced depending on how easy they are to clean - such as limited use of toys with intricate parts. Staff are vigilant in cleaning and removing objects that are put in a child’s mouth as far as is possible. The staff are asked to exercise due care and attention and observe safe working methods.

Donated resources for crafts and resources that are difficult to clean are quarantined for 72 hours before use.

The Nursery will provide a personalised jute bag. This bag is to be taken home and returned each day. It is a way to transport their work, accessories and lunch boxes, water bottles etc in a contained way as they leave Nursery. They also need a bag with spare clothes, wipes, nappies in that remains on their peg so as to encourage less transportation from home to Nursery. This needs to be a plain bag that the child does not miss.

Wellbeing

We are aware that each child, parent and staff member has had a very personal experience during lock-down and we are very mindful of each unique member of our community. We have asked each child to have an “All about me” form filled in with pertinent information that holistically enables us, as practitioners, to adapt our practice to settle each child and support parents and carers.

Parents are requested to inform the Nursery if a child is attending more than one setting. This will have an impact if the COVID Alert level changes.

(see settling in policy COVID19)

Safeguarding

Jacqueline Moulder, The Head Teacher, is the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and is available during Nursery Hours for initial contact. Any safeguarding issues continue to

remain a priority and the DSL and senior practitioners will be accessible for escalated situations. The entire Nursery Team is aware of the safeguarding requirements and can signpost or respond according to Surrey County Council's levels of concern and our Nursery Policies and procedures.

Any absence from the Nursery still needs to be accounted for and is in line with our Safeguarding Policies. Parents need to ring or text in the morning to let the Nursery know about absences. If we do not hear from, or cannot make contact with a family, we have a duty of care to contact outside agencies. This is to safeguard the whole family and make sure that everyone is "safe". This also applies to late collection.

(Arrival Policy COVID 19, Late Collection Policy, Settling in Policy (COVID 19), safeguarding and Child Protection Policy)

Early Years Foundation Stage

St Pauls Church Nursery School continues to abide by the EYFS. Restrictions were implemented over lock down (March to September) regarding 2-year reports, although we still respectfully provided them for our families. The Team fulfilled every report and we remained in communication with parents through weekly newsletters and with direct contact with the children's key person and the Head.

We continue to follow the EYFS and observe each child. This is a fundamental part of our planning as we are guided by the children's interests and needs.

Our priority is to maintain communication with parents, through weekly email newsletters and constant website updates to share the inside of the setting and activities the children are experiencing. There will be meetings set with parents to discuss their child's development and a time to share information. These will be scheduled to respect social distancing post drop off or pre pick up. The Nursery Team are always ready to schedule a meeting with parents, but these have to be in line with ratios and safeguarding requirements. The Nursery staff can be contacted, and communication can take place within opening hours if the timing is appropriate for the children's wellbeing.

A 2 Year check is a statutory requirement and has been reinstated (24 September 2020) after its COVID 19 removal over lockdown. It will be completed within a realistic time frame of the child settling at the Nursery.

COVID symptoms and precautions

Parents and staff are aware that their children are not to attend Nursery if they present with any COVID symptoms: a temperature or continual dry cough. The children need to be tested and self-isolate as they await the result. The Nursery complies with the advice of Public Health England, NHS "test and Trace process" and the Local Health Protection Team.

If the child or staff member present symptoms at Nursery, we will follow our risk assessment (Illness during the session) in line with the gov.uk guidelines within the “systems of control”. The individual will be sent home and they will need to have a test. If the test is negative (The Head needs to have proof of this status), they will be allowed back when well. There are obviously many other bugs that still exist, particularly in winter.

If the test is positive, the Local Health Protection Team will be contacted. They will work with the Nursery and guide us through the actions we will need to take. Based on their advice, the Nursery will send home those people who have been in close contact with the person who has been tested positive, advising them to self-isolate for 14 days since they were last in contact with that person when they were infectious. The individual and family will need to comply with the self-isolation requirements specified by the government.

Parents and carers will be made aware that there has been a positive testing, but in line with GDPR and our safeguarding policy no names will be attached and we insist on full support in respecting this anonymity in these difficult times.

It is important to communicate with parents the possibility that the Nursery may have to close if there are not sufficient staff. If the minimum ratios cannot be met, parents will be contacted to collect their child.

In the short term, a member of the Nursery Community can be part of the ratios, adhering to the rules of wearing a mask and not engaging with the children nor touching resources. This will not be possible as a long-term solution, so the Nursery will prioritise vulnerable children, children of key workers and older children (over 3) to make the opening of Nursery possible. If this is not effective, the Nursery will have to be closed, the Local Authority and Ofsted will be contacted.

Coronavirus

The Nursery respects the information given to each child by their family regarding the Virus and continues to deal with COVID in a sensitive, respectful, age appropriate and non-alarmist way. As experienced professionals we will continue to impress the importance of hygiene on the children and discuss the need to clean away the germs, but we will minimise the discussion of the Virus in Nursery so the children can enjoy their daily experience, feeling safe and developing through their play as all children have the right to do.

Public Health England
PHE Surrey and Sussex Health Protection Team (South East)
County Hall
Chart Way
Horsham
RH12 1XA

0344 225 3861 (option 1-4 area dependant)

PHE.sshpu@nhs.net

Dfe helpline 0800 0468687

www.nhs.uk

Self isolation and Treating Coronavirus Symptoms

www.gov.uk

*Local COVID alert levels: what you need to know

*Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak (updates 21/10/20)

*Coronavirus (COVID-19) getting tested

*COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection

