

Illness and Infectious Diseases Policy

“Providers must have a procedure, discussed with parents and/or carers, for responding to children who are ill or infectious, take necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection, and take appropriate action if children are ill.” Statutory Framework for the EYFS (3.44)

Graitney meets the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage by:

- Notifying Ofsted of any food poisoning affecting two or more children or any serious illness of any child whilst in the setting's care; and details of the action taken. Notification must be made as soon as is reasonably practicable, but in any event within 14 days of the incident occurring.
- Following the guidance on infection control in schools and childcare settings. (Attached to this policy)

In particular:

- Graitney cannot accept your child into the setting should they have experienced diarrhoea and/or vomiting within the last 48 hours.
- Graitney will adhere to the recommended period your child is to be kept away from the setting to avoid the spread of infection.
- Informing the local Health Protection Agency on 0844 225 3861 Public Health England (PHE) if it is suspected an outbreak of an infectious disease.
- Implementing good hygiene practice to avoid the spread of infection following the guidance below:
 1. Hand washing is one of the most important ways of controlling the spread of infections, especially those that cause diarrhoea and vomiting, and respiratory disease. The recommended method is the use of liquid soap, warm water and paper towels. We always wash hands after using the toilet, before eating or handling food, and after handling animals. Cuts and abrasions are covered with waterproof dressings.
 2. Coughing and sneezing easily spread infections. Children and adults are encouraged to cover their mouth and nose with a tissue, wash hands after using or disposing of tissues.
 3. Personal protective equipment (PPE). Disposable gloves and disposable plastic aprons will be worn where there is a risk of splashing or contamination with blood/body fluids. Spillages of blood, faeces, saliva, vomit, nasal and eye discharges will be cleaned up immediately using a product that combines both a detergent and a disinfectant, ensuring it is effective against bacteria and viruses and suitable for use on the affected surface. Personal protective equipment will be worn to avoid infection.

4. Cleaning of the environment, including toys and equipment is done on a regular basis.
5. Laundry - soiled toys/ clothes/sheets will be washed separately at the hottest wash the fabric will tolerate. Ensuring personal protective equipment is worn when handling soiled toys/ clothes/sheets. These will be bagged and taken home to be washed or disposed of.
6. Animals - Animals may carry infections, so steps would be taken to wash hands after handling animals. Although there is no plan for animals to visit Graitney this would be taken into consideration if anyone visits with animals, i.e. a farm.

In the event of a child becoming ill Graitney will take the following steps:

- Contact the parent/carer immediately should a child in my care falls ill to discuss the child's illness and if necessary, arrange for the child to be collected.
- Contact the person/s identified in the emergency contact(s) list to discuss the illness and/or arrange for them to collect the child should the parent/carer not be available.
- Ensure the child is made as comfortable as possible while waiting for them to be collected by parent/carer.
- Seek emergency medical assistance, treatment or advice without first making contact with the child's parent/carer in exceptional circumstances. In the rare event that we are unable to contact anyone and the child deteriorates, a member of staff will take responsibility and decide on the action required this may require an ambulance being called and the child taken to hospital, along with the child's relevant details. A message will be left with the parent/ carer informing them of the situation. A member of staff will go with the child in the ambulance and stay with the child until the child's parent/carer arrives at the hospital.
- Ensure children with head lice will not be excluded, but reassurance will be required from parents/carers that treatment is taking place. Other parents/carers will be informed that there are head lice in the setting, ensuring confidentiality is maintained.