



St Christopher's Playgroup

Pandemic and Outbreak policy

The welfare, safety, and health of our children and staff are paramount.

We aim to create an environment where children are safe and healthy from pandemic outbreaks, for example influenza, meningitis and Covid – 19.

In the event of a pandemic outbreak, St Christopher's Playgroup will take the following measures to minimise the outbreak and to operate safely in accordance with current legislation:

- Raise staff awareness of signs, symptoms, and exclusion periods of such illnesses.
- Current Government guidelines advise that if any one member of a household is showing symptoms of Covid – 19. That the household isolates until a negative test results is received. We will be adhering to this policy and insist that you do not send your child if you suspect they are unwell. Should the test be positive, we must be notified and we will shut the venue and everyone connected must isolate for 7 – 10 days.
- Any member of staff suspecting that a child is unwell or contagious must report this immediately to the Playgroup Supervisors and any notifiable condition under the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1988 will be reported by the child's GP to the Health Protection Agency. In the case of Covid – 19 – changes adapted for the 2020 pandemic will mean track and trace are implemented and bubble families will be notified.
- The Playgroup will keep an up-to-date record of all the children's immunization status, recorded on the enrolment form. And parents will be asked to monitor and confirm they are part of the track and trace scheme.
- Provide further guidance on hygiene routines, for example hand washing for both staff and children, correct emptying of bins containing used tissues, disinfecting surfaces and follow any guidance from the Health Protection Agency and DfE for a notifiable illness. Using PPE where required and isolating as needed.
- Use of alcohol hand sanitizer.
- The Playgroup Manager will close the Playgroup if so advised or instructed by public authority or DfE and initiate a thorough deep clean of the setting and immediately inform the Chair of the Management Committee.
- The Playgroup Management Committee will also close the Playgroup if required and this maybe at short notice and parents are advised this can/ could happen. Factors of this will include infection and if child: staff ratios cannot be maintained. This decision will be made in conjunction with the Chair of the Management Committee.
- Any child that is considered unwell will be made comfortable in a temporary 'sick bay' area away from other children and staff. Where a full PPE kit will always be available.
- The Playgroup Management Committee will telephone the child's parents or carers on the numbers provided to the Playgroup. If there is no answer, the other emergency contact numbers supplied will be tried. If the parents, carers or emergency contacts are not available, the child will be cared for by a member of staff on a one-to-one basis until the end of the session.
- Where staff are concerned about a child's condition deteriorating, they will seek medical guidance and may in extreme circumstances, call an ambulance. Parents or carers will be informed as soon as is possible.
- Children or staff who have been unwell will not be accepted back unless they are clinically well. A doctor's note may be required. And we insist that the self-isolation guide of 14 days is followed before being able to return to the setting.

- The Playgroup Manager will tell the parents or carers to inform their doctor or hospital to ensure that the relevant authorities are informed; the Manager will ensure Ofsted is informed.
- The Playgroup Supervisors will put up a notice on the Playgroup door advising parents of a possible pandemic outbreak and that their child may have come in direct contact with the infected person.
- The Playgroup Management Committee will issue a letter by post or email to all parents advising them of a possible pandemic outbreak with advice on the signs and symptoms to look for and whether the Playgroup will remain open.
- In case of Covid – 19 additional measures have been put into place including several extra measures which are highlighted in our risk assessment and operations guide, available as an annex to this document.
- The word bubble has come into commonly language use and means that children and staff will be wherever possible bubble into groups that will not cross contaminate.
- In case of Covid – 19. Parents fees will be affected based on what we are able to offer as a provision. The breakdown of fees will be dependent on the time of year and the financial status of the playgroup at that time.
- In case of Covid – 19. Our full and concise Risk assessment will come into force, along with the operational guide. This will include the daily cleaning and sanitizing of all areas and social distancing will be enforced.
- Should you decide to travel abroad, we strongly advise that you check the latest travel information. We respectfully request that should you wish to travel during playgroup term time, that on return you self isolate for 14 days before returning to playgroup.