1.22 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.

Any member of staff suspecting that a child is unwell or contagious must report this immediately to the Playgroup Manager 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.

The Playgroup will keep an up-to-date record of all the children's immunisation status, recorded on the enrolment form.

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. A full PPE kit will always be available.

The Playgroup staff 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 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.

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 Management 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 a pandemic outbreak additional measures have been put into place including several extra measures such as extra handwashing, sanitising of equipment etc. Any other measures will be communicated to parents and carers, depending on the nature of the infectious disease.

In case of a pandemic outbreak. 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 a pandemic outbreak. Our full and concessive Risk assessment will come into force, along with the operational guide. This will include the daily cleaning and sanitising of all areas.

Covid-19

Public health advice for People with COVID-19 and their contacts changed from 24 February 2022. Contacts are no longer required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests, and contact tracing has ended. The Prime Minister set out the next phase of the Government's COVID- 19 response. COVID-19 continues to be a virus that we learn to live with.
The Government have put an end to all Covid-19 restrictions as of 24th February 2022.
The following updates/changes are;
• There is no legal requirement for a positive case of Covid-19 to self-isolate.
• Anyone who is not well enough to attend Playgroup (staff or children) should stay at home until they are feeling better.
• Weekly LFT are no longer recommended for staff and students and will no longer be free to order from April 2022. Testing may be advised if there is an outbreak within the setting.
• Settings no longer need to report positive cases to Ofsted or Local Authority

We will follow the most up to date guidance from the Health Protection Agency and DfE for any notifiable illness.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of	STCP Committee	name of setting
Held on	September 2026	(date)
Date to be reviewed	September 2027	(date)
Signed on behalf of the management committee	KJCookes	
Name of signatory	Karen Cookes	
Role of signatory (e.g. chair/owner)	Manager	