



**Great Horwood Church of England School**  
**Seedlings Nursery & Pre-School**

**Infection Control and Management of Sick Pupils Policy**  
**September 2025**

**This policy was adopted on: 21 January 2026**

**Date of next review: January 2027**

Signed: P.M. Shaw

## Our Vision

**'I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.'** John 15:5

At Great Horwood Church of England School, the academic, emotional and spiritual well-being of all individuals is at the heart of all that we do; where everyone is valued. We are a safe, welcoming school within the heart of the village community that aims to provide all our children and adults with the learning opportunities to flourish, be healthy, grow in resilience and realise their full potential; being fully equipped and prepared for a successful future.

Inspired by Christian faith and rooted in the teachings, values and spirituality of the Church of England we embrace our core values of love, perseverance and respect where all individuals learn to value themselves and others.

We are committed to setting high standards of achievement within a caring and nurturing learning environment. We aim to provide opportunities for children to develop a curiosity of learning, a thirst for knowledge through play, and an exploration of the world around them.

## Infection Control and Management of Sick Pupils Policy

Seedlings Nursery and Pre-School is committed to promoting the health and well-being of all children and staff. We aim to prevent the spread of infection and ensure that children who are unwell receive appropriate care. This policy aligns with the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and Public Health England guidance on infection control in schools and childcare settings.

### Objectives

- To minimise the risk of infection within the nursery.
- To ensure children who are unwell are cared for appropriately and safely.
- To communicate clearly with parents/carers regarding exclusion periods and procedures.

### Procedures

#### 1. Identifying Illness

Children who appear unwell during the day (e.g., temperature, fever, vomiting, diarrhoea, rash, or unusual behaviour) will:

- Be cared for in a quiet, comfortable area away from other children.
- Have their temperature checked using a digital thermometer.
- If a child has a temperature, they are kept cool, by removing top clothing, sponging their heads with cool water, but kept away from draughts.
- Be monitored by staff until collected.
- Parents/carers will be contacted immediately to collect their child or send a known carer to collect on their behalf.
- In extreme cases of emergency the child should be taken to the nearest hospital and the parent informed

- Parents are asked to take their child to the doctor or allow them to fully recover at home in the case of a heavy cold or stomach flu before returning them to Seedlings.
- Seedlings can refuse admittance to children who have a temperature, sickness and diarrhoea or a contagious infection or disease.

Staff will use their professional judgement to decide if the child is well enough to remain in nursery. If staff feel the child is well enough to remain in nursery, parents/guardians will always be given the choice if they wish to collect their child. If the child does remain in nursery, staff will continue to monitor the child closely. If staff believe the child is not well enough to remain in nursery parents will be contacted immediately and asked to collect their child and if necessary seek medical advice.

## 2. Exclusion Periods

Following Public Health England guidance, the following apply:

- Diarrhoea and/or vomiting: Exclude for 48 hours after the last episode.
- Fever ( $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ ): Child must be collected immediately; may return when fever-free for 24 hours without medication.
- Antibiotics: Child must remain at home for 48 hours after starting treatment.
- Common infectious illnesses:
  - Chickenpox: Until all spots have crusted over.
  - Measles/Rubella: 5 days from onset of rash.
  - Mumps: 5 days after onset of swelling.
  - Scarlet Fever: 24 hours after starting antibiotics.
  - Impetigo: 48 hours after starting antibiotics and lesions crusted.
  - Conjunctivitis: Once treatment has commenced.
  - Head lice: No exclusion required once treatment started.
  - Ringworm/Scabies: After first treatment.
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The school office has a list of excludable diseases and current exclusion times. The full list is obtainable from [Should I send my child to school? | Exclusion for Infections](#) and includes common childhood illnesses such as measles.

## 3. Emergency Situations

If a child's condition deteriorates or becomes severe (e.g., temperature  $>39^{\circ}\text{C}$ , breathing difficulties), staff will:

- Seek immediate medical advice or call emergency services.
- Inform parents/carers promptly.

## 4. Notification of Infectious Diseases

There is a list of notifiable diseases which we have a legal obligation to report to the Health Protection Agency and Ofsted should a child within our care become infected. In these cases we will work closely with the parent/carer, the HPA and Ofsted to ensure we follow any additional advice we may be given. Certain illnesses are notifiable to Public Health England and Ofsted (e.g., measles, mumps, rubella, tuberculosis). The nursery will:

- Inform parents/carers of any outbreak.
- Follow advice from local Health Protection Team.

## 5. Communication with Parents

Parents will be informed of:

- Any infectious disease present in the setting.
- Exclusion periods and return criteria.
- Advice for pregnant mothers regarding infections such as rubella, chickenpox, and slapped cheek.

## 6. Information for Pregnant Mothers

There are a number of infections that are harmful to the unborn baby.

These include:

- Chicken pox,
- German measles (Rubella),
- Slapped cheek,
- Measles

If you or your child has been at the Pre-School when one of the above infections is present we advise you to see your GP/Midwife to check if you are immune and seek their medical advice. As a responsible childcare provider following advice from the Public Health Agency we recommend that all children follow the 'routine childhood immunisation programme'. This reduces the risk of exposure to children in our care of infectious diseases. However, we are aware that the immunisation programme is not legislative

## 7. Hygiene and Prevention

How can parents help?

As a parent you can help support and manage infection control by following the guidance in this policy and, encouraging and supporting your child's good personal hygiene:

- Regular hand washing with soap (especially after using the toilet, before eating or handling food and after handling animals)
- Covering your mouth when coughing/sneezing and using a tissue where possible
- Disposing of used tissues into a bin promptly and carefully
- Spitting should be discouraged
- Regular cleaning of hard surfaces, door handles and toys
- Parents are encouraged to follow the routine childhood immunisation programme.

## Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if guidance changes.