**8.7 Covid-19**

**Policy statement**

The health and safety of the children attending our setting, our staff, and the families of staff and children are of paramount importance, along with the safety of the wider community. Children’s emotional wellbeing is of equal importance and will be supported as skilfully as possible within any necessary restrictions. Staff will provide wellbeing sessions to help support all children during the pandemic.

These procedures are written in line with guidance from UK Government*;* <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>. The Pre-School Manager is responsible for ensuring all staff understand and follow these procedures, and for updating procedures as guidance may change. This policy is additional to our general policies and Covid Risk Assessment and should be viewed in partnership with them. Some necessary measures may supersede our existing policies temporarily. Where permanent changes are adopted, existing policies will be updated.

**Procedures**

* The Pre-School will close as and when necessary through local and national guidance. The Pre-School will only re-open when the Government issues confirmation that it is safe to do so.
* Staff, parents/carers, and children should follow all necessary social distancing guidance, both in and out the Pre-School. This guidance may change; parents/carers and staff should ensure that they always keep updated and follow national guidance and strategies in relation to Covid-19.
* Numbers of children may be reduced and or a phased return implemented after any necessary closures, to ensure that all necessary hygiene, and infection controls can be implemented and to manage staffing fluctuations that may be necessary. Places will be prioritised in the following order: vulnerable children, children of critical workers, children starting school in September.
* The setting will continue to offer free flow play and children are encouraged to play outside as much as possible. The setting will be classed as one whole bubble this will allow all children to attend the Pre-School.
* Information about the current guidelines are updated regularly in our Covid-19 Risk Assessment. This is sent to Parents/ Carers and staff via email, Tapestry and is published on our website (<https://ladybirdpre-school.org.uk/>) whenever it is updated.

***Infection controls – symptoms***

* Anyone, including staff, parents, children or visitors experiencing any of the following three coronavirus symptoms MUST stay at home and will not be permitted on the Pre-School site:
  + A high temperature
  + A new, continuous cough
  + A loss of, or change to, sense of smell or taste
* Children should NOT be given analgesia such as Calpol, or other ibuprofen/paracetamol products before attending preschool as this could mask symptoms of Covid-19. The Pre-School reserves the right to refuse admission to children if this is not adhered to.
* If a diagnosis of Covid-19 is confirmed all necessary bodies will be informed, including Ofsted, Public Health England and in the case of staff contracting the virus, under Reporting of Injuries, Disease and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR).

***Infection controls – Track and Trace***

* We advise and encourage parents and staff to fully support contact tracing measures and to follow the advice given, should they be contact traced.  Parents must inform the Pre-School if they/or any member of their household has been advised to self-isolate.
* All users of and visitors to the setting will be required to fully support any Track and Trace guidance measures, including self-isolating.
* Any contact for Track and Trace must be declared to the setting, with relevant measures explained, including contact relating to other members of the person’s household.
* The Pre-School will also declare to users of and visitors to the setting should any staff member need to follow Track and Trace instructions.

***Shielding and clinically vulnerable adults and children***

* We will follow our Covid-19 Risk Assessment guidelines regarding shielding and clinically vulnerable adults and children.

***Social distancing and wearing masks***

* We will follow our Covid-19 Risk Assessment guidelines regarding the use of face masks, visitors, and social distancing measures.

***Hygiene controls***

* We will follow our Covid-19 Risk Assessment guidelines regarding hygiene controls.

***Infection controls***

* We will follow our Covid-19 Risk Assessment guidelines regarding infection controls.

**Relevant Ladybird policies:**

* 1.2 Safeguarding Children and Child Protection
* 1.8 Online Safety (incl. CCTV, Cameras, Mobile Phones and Smart Devices)
* 3.2 Accidents and First Aid
* 8.1 Health and Safety

| **This policy was reviewed by** | Amanda Sanders – Pre-School Manager  Rebecca McGough – Chair |
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| **Date of review** | June 2022 |
| **Date for next review** | June 2023 |
| **Chair’s signature** |  |