

Medication and Illness Policy

At Snowdrop Cottage we promote the good health of all children attending, including oral health, by:

- Asking parents to keep children at home if they are unwell. If a child is unwell, it is in their best interest to be in a home environment rather than at nursery with their peers.
- Minimising infection through our rigorous cleaning and hand washing processes (see infection control policy) Ensuring children have regular access to the outdoors and having good ventilation inside.

Our procedures

In order to take appropriate action of children who become ill and to minimise the spread of infection we implement the following procedures:

- In case of illness in a child such as high temperature, rash or sickness/diarrhoea we will immediately phone a child's emergency contact informing them of the situation and ask them to come and collect their child. They will be reminded of the exclusion periods on collection.
- We follow the guidance published by Public Health England (Health Protection in Schools and other childcare facilities) and advice from our local health protection unit on exclusion times for specific illnesses, e.g. sickness and diarrhoea, to protect other children in the nursery. We have differing exclusion periods for some illnesses, such as chicken pox and hand, foot and mouth, which are specific to the nursery. These can be found on the 'Snowdrop Cottage Exclusions Table' document.
- We have the right to refuse admission to a child who is unwell. This decision will be taken by the manager on duty and is non-negotiable.
- Snowdrop Cottage will not administer the child's first ever dose of any medication such as antibiotics, inhalers, steroids, eye drops etc in case of adverse reaction. We require children to have had at least 24 hours since their first dose of medication before they can attend nursery.
- If a child has attended hospital, they must be kept home for 48 hours after release to ensure they are fully recovered before their return.

Medication prescribed by a doctor, dentist, nurse or pharmacist.

- Prescribed medicine can only be given to the person named on the packaging for the dosage stated. We will never give above the recommended dose.
- If your child needs medication administering at nursery, you must inform us ahead of them attending. A Medication Authorisation Form (MAF 1) will be emailed to you to complete. This needs returning before your child attends.
- All medications should be in their original containers, or they will not be given. All prescribed medicines should have the pharmacist's details and notes attached to show the dosage needed and the date the prescription was issued. This will all be checked, along with any expiry dates, before staff administer the medication. Left-over medication cannot be used at another time (ie previously prescribed inhalers cannot be administered at a later date).
- The parent or guardian should be asked when the child had last been given the medication before coming to nursery. When the child is picked up, you will be informed if the time the medication was administered had varied from the MAF.
- If the child refuses to take the appropriate medication, the parents will be informed, and a note will be made on the medicine form.

Non-prescription medication

- The nursery will not administer any non-prescription medication.
- If a child has a very high temperature requiring them to go home, liquid paracetamol can be given whilst awaiting collection. Parents will have signed the booking form giving the nursery permission to administer set dosage. We will never give above the recommended dose.
- In the case of nappy creams and teething medications (such as crystals or gels), we are happy to administer these whilst at nursery so long as they are brought in their original packaging, so staff are able to follow the manufacturers guidelines for administering. These do not need a medicine form, unless otherwise stated.
- For emollient creams, please bring these in labelled with your child's name and we can store and apply these as needed. These do not need a medicine form unless otherwise stated.

Temperatures and Liquid Paracetamol

- Children, especially young babies can suddenly develop a high temperature, but often recover quickly once appropriate treatment has been given. We will contact you to alert you to their condition and inform you if collection is necessary.
- We will attempt to control your child's temperature through other methods, such as removal of outer clothing and withdrawing to a cooler area of the nursery. If a child has a temperature of 39°C or higher, the nursery will make every attempt to contact the child's parents. Where parents cannot be contacted then the nursery manager will take the decision as to whether the child is safe to have this medication based on the time the child has been in the nursery, the circumstances surrounding the need for this medication and the medical history of the child on their registration form.
- If a child, either whilst in our care or at home, has a temperature of 38.5 c or above we require the parent to keep the child off nursery for 24 hours to ensure the temperature stays down. We consider a temperature this high to be of concern and an indication that there is something further wrong with the child. We would not expect a child who is teething to reach temperatures of higher than 38.5 c and will not make exceptions for this reason.
- We cannot accept your child into nursery if they have had liquid ibuprofen or paracetamol within the last 12 hours or are relying on pain relief to make it through the day.

Injections, Pessaries, Suppositories

- As the administration of injections, pessaries and suppositories represents intrusive nursing, they should not be administered by any member of staff.

Antihistamine

- In the case of antihistamine, such as Piriton or similar, we require that a child has a specific reason for the medication, such as heat rash or hay-fever, and a form will need to be filled out prior to arrival.
- If symptoms persist in making the child uncomfortable or unable to participate in the nursery day, then we will ask you to collect them.
- There may be cases where children need a dose of Piriton at nursery, for example after an insect sting. In this case, we will contact parents first to gain permission before administering.

Eye drops

- NHS guidance is that children can still attend nursery with conjunctivitis, however, we know that conjunctivitis spreads quickly between children of nursery age, given their lack of awareness with regards to personal hygiene. We therefore have an exclusion period in place.
- If conjunctivitis is suspected, your child needs to stay off nursery until the eyes have cleared of pus. If they are given eye medication, they will need to have at least the first 24 hours of medication at home. Once they have moved to the drops being administered 4 hourly, then we can apply two doses per day (i.e. one in AM, one in PM), once the child returns to nursery.
- If they are needing to be given more frequently than this, the child needs to be kept at home for parents to administer the medication themselves and the child can return to nursery once improved and they have moved to the 4 hourly drops. We are unable to administer drops every 2 hours at nursery.

Long Term Medications

- For children who have a long-term medication, such as asthma or eczema, we require the parent to fill out an Ongoing Medication Form, which can be completed once and then kept for the duration of their time at nursery unless the situation or medication changes and the form can be updated to reflect this.

Storage

- All medication for children must have the child's name clearly written on the container and be kept in the office, away from the children other than when medicines are being issued or received.
- Any antibiotics requiring refrigeration must be kept in the kitchen fridge.

Vaccinations

- We will need your child to remain off for at least 24 hours after having any live vaccination, such as the one-year booster jabs or the nasal flu vaccination. This ensures that any adverse reaction to the vaccines occur

under the parents' care. They are welcome to come back to nursery 24 hours after their vaccinations, as long as your child is well in themselves. If their condition changes, we will contact you to collect your child.

- As the preschool booster jabs are not a live vaccination, your child is able to return to nursery straight away.
- Please advise us ahead of your child being given any vaccination.

Meningitis procedure

- If a parent informs the nursery that their child has meningitis, the nursery manager will contact the Local Area Infection Control (IC) Nurse. The IC Nurse will give guidance and support in each individual case. We will follow all guidance given and notify any of the appropriate authorities including Ofsted where necessary.

Food poisoning

- We notify Ofsted as soon as is reasonably practical, but in any event within 14 days of the incident of any food poisoning affecting two or more children cared for on the premises.

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
<i>September 2025</i>	<i>L Jones</i>	<i>September 2026</i>