



Illness and Exclusion Policy

At Pegwell Bay Nursery, we understand that as a working parent, you need reliable childcare. However, if your child is unwell, they will be better cared for at home with their parents. We will care for children with minor coughs and colds but cannot accept children who are very unwell, infectious, or have a high temperature.

We follow guidance from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) on infection control and exclusion periods to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children and staff.

If your child has had three bouts of diarrhoea or one episode of vomiting within the last 48 hours, please keep them at home and inform us as soon as possible. Children should only return to nursery 48 hours after the last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting.

If your child becomes ill during nursery hours, we will make them as comfortable as possible, isolate them from other children if necessary, and reassure them. Parents or emergency contacts will be contacted immediately. We will continue to care for your child until you arrive.

Toys and surfaces that have been in contact with an infectious child will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected using antibacterial spray and Milton sterilising solution where appropriate. Toys that can be machine washed or placed in a dishwasher will be cleaned accordingly.

In the case of a medical emergency, staff will call 999 immediately, then contact parents or carers. If a hospital visit is required, a qualified member of staff will accompany the child and remain with them until a parent or guardian arrives.

If a child's temperature rises above 40°C and the parent or emergency contacts are unreachable, we will continue to monitor the child closely. If no improvement occurs, we will contact NHS 111 for further advice due to the risk of febrile convulsions. Should ambulance services be advised, a senior member of staff will accompany the child to hospital, bringing the child's registration pack and a mobile phone. The Nursery Manager will notify Ofsted following such an incident.

Paracetamol-based medication (e.g., Calpol) will only be administered after we have contacted you and in exceptional situations, such as a high temperature when parents cannot collect immediately. In these cases, you must collect your child within one hour of medication being given. If your child required Calpol before attending nursery, they should remain at home as this likely indicates they are too unwell to attend.

For common and uncommon illnesses and diseases, we adhere to the UKHSA's guidance on infection control and exclusion periods. Parents will be notified via Family if there are cases of infectious diseases within the nursery.



Below is the exclusion guidance we follow based on UKHSA recommendations:

Infection	Exclusion Period	Comments
Athlete's foot	None	Treatment recommended.
Chicken pox	Five days from onset of rash and all lesions crusted	
Cold sores (herpes simplex)	None	Avoid kissing and contact with sores. Mild and self-resolving.
Conjunctivitis	None, but children can attend once prescribed medication applied	Outbreaks will be reported to UKHSA.
Diarrhoea and vomiting	Until symptom-free and 48 hours after last episode	
Diphtheria	Exclusion essential; consult local Health Protection Team	Preventable by vaccination; family contacts excluded until cleared.
Flu (influenza)	Until recovered	Outbreaks must be reported to UKHSA.
Glandular fever	None	
Hand, foot and mouth	None	May consider exclusion if large numbers affected.
Head lice	None	Treatment only when live lice seen.
Hepatitis A	Exclude until 7 days after onset of jaundice or symptom onset if no jaundice	Outbreak control measures advised by UKHSA.
Hepatitis B, C, HIV	None	Not spread by casual contact.
Impetigo	Until lesions healed or 48 hours after starting antibiotics	Antibiotics reduce infectious period.
Measles	Four days from onset of rash and recovered	Preventable by MMR vaccine.
Meningitis (bacterial)	Until recovered	Vaccines available; advice from UKHSA followed.



Meningitis (viral)	None	Less severe; no exclusion needed for contacts.
MRSA	None	Good hygiene reduces spread; advice from UKHSA.
Mumps	Five days after swelling onset	Preventable by MMR vaccine.
Ringworm	None	Treatment needed.
Rubella (German measles)	Five days from rash onset	Preventable by MMR vaccine; pregnant staff advised to seek medical advice.
Scarlet fever	24 hours after starting appropriate antibiotics	Infectious for 2–3 weeks if untreated; notify local health protection.
Scabies	After first treatment	Household contacts should be treated simultaneously.
Slapped cheek (Parvovirus B19)	None after rash develops	Pregnant contacts should consult GP or midwife.
Threadworms	None	Treatment recommended for child and household.
Tonsillitis	None	Usually viral and not requiring antibiotics.
Tuberculosis (TB)	Consult local Health Protection Team before informing parents	Only pulmonary TB is infectious; requires close contact.
Warts and verrucae	None	Verrucae should be covered in swimming pools, gyms.
Whooping cough (pertussis)	Two days after starting antibiotics or 21 days from symptoms if no antibiotics	Preventable by vaccination; cough may persist after treatment.

If your child is sent home due to illness, fees for that session remain payable. Fees are also payable during any absence or sickness periods as per nursery terms and conditions.

We also ask parents to follow the nursery's COVID-19 policy, which aligns with the latest government and UKHSA guidance. Visitors and settling-in arrangements may be adjusted in response to public health advice