

Keswick House Nursery

(Reviewed Autumn 2025: Review date Autumn 2026)

Policy on Children with allergies, or who are sick or infectious

Policy Statement

We provide care for children and promote health through identifying allergies and preventing contact with the allergenic substance and through preventing cross infection of viruses and bacterial infections.

Procedures for children with allergies

When parents start their children at the setting they are asked if their child suffers from any known allergies. This is recorded on the Registration form, Emergency Form and My Child at Home.

If a child has an allergy, their details are displayed on the Medical Board in the staff room and include the following:

- The allergen (i.e. the substance, material or living creature the child is allergic to such as nuts, eggs, bee stings, cats etc).
- The nature of the allergic reactions e.g. anaphylactic shock reaction, including rash, reddening of skin, swelling, breathing problems etc.
- What to do in case of allergic reactions, any medication used and how it is to be used (e.g. Epipen).
- Control measures – such as how the child can be prevented from contact with the allergen.

If a child requires medicine to be kept at Nursery e.g. an epipen, a copy of their Health Care Plan is displayed on the medical board with a photo of the child. The medication is kept in a clearly labelled orange zip bag with a copy of the child's Health Care plan.

- Parents/medical staff train staff in how to administer special medication in the event of an allergic reaction.
- The Nursery has a no nut policy however other non-edible nut products are used within the setting but this would be reviewed immediately should a child or adult with such allergies join the Nursery.
- Parents would be made aware if this policy was to change to ensure no nut or nut products are accidentally brought in should we have a child or adult with such allergies.

Oral Medication

Asthma inhalers are now regarded as "oral medication" by insurers and so documents do not need to be forwarded to your insurance provider.

- Oral medications must be prescribed by a GP or have manufacturer's instructions clearly written on them.
- The Nursery must be provided with clear written instructions on how to administer such medication.
- All risk assessment procedures need to be adhered to for the correct storage and administration of the medication.

- The Nursery must have the parents or guardians prior written consent. This consent must be kept on file. It is not necessary to forward copy documents to your insurance provider. Life-saving medication & invasive treatments - adrenaline injections (Epipens) for anaphylactic shock reactions (caused by allergies to nuts, eggs etc) or invasive treatments such as rectal administration of Diazepam (for epilepsy).

The setting must have:

- a letter from the child's GP/consultant stating the child's condition and what medication if any is to be administered
- Prior written consent from the child's parent or guardian allowing staff to give treatment and/or medication prescribed by the child's GP
- proof of training in the administration of such medication. Copies of all three letters relating to these children must first be sent to the insurance provider. Confirmation will then be issued in writing confirming that the insurance has been extended.
- Key person to have the relevant medical training/experience, which may include those who have received appropriate instructions from parents or guardians, or who have qualifications.

Procedures for children who are sick or infectious

Children who have an infectious disease should not be at the school setting. Once they have recovered, they should only return to school if they do not pose a risk of infection to other children and staff. **They should only return once the risk has passed.**

- If children appear unwell during the day – have a temperature, sickness, diarrhoea or pains, particularly in the head or stomach – the Manager will call the parents and ask them to collect their child or send a known carer to collect on their behalf.
- If a child has any of the above symptoms whilst at nursery, they will be taken to the 'Isolated Rest Area' until they are collected – see guidance on Covid -19 for protocols.
- In extreme cases of emergency, the Manager will call 999 for an ambulance and the parents are informed.
- The Nursery can refuse admittance to children who have a temperature, sickness and diarrhoea or a contagious infection or disease.
- Where children have been prescribed antibiotics, parents are asked to keep them at home for 24 hours before returning to the setting.
- After diarrhoea, parents are asked to keep children home for 24 hours or until a formed stool is passed.
- The nursery has a Guidance list of infection control in schools and other childcare settings available.

Reporting of 'notifiable diseases'

- If a child or adult is diagnosed suffering from a notifiable disease under the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1988, the GP will report this to the Health Protection Agency.
- When the setting becomes aware, or is formally informed of the notifiable disease, the Head/ Manager informs Ofsted and acts on any advice given by the Health Protection Agency.

Hygiene precautions for dealing with body fluids are the same for all children and adults.

- Single use vinyl gloves and aprons are worn when changing children's nappies, pants and clothing that are soiled with blood, urine, faeces or vomit.
- Soiled clothing is rinsed and bagged for parents to collect.
- Spills of blood, urine, faeces or vomit are cleared using mild disinfectant solution and mops; cloths used are disposed of with the bodily fluids/ nappy bins.

- Tables and other furniture, furnishings or toys affected by blood, urine, faeces or vomit are cleaned using a disinfectant.

Nits and head lice

- Nits and head lice are not an excludable condition, although in exceptional cases a parent may be asked to keep the child away until the infestation has been treated.
- On identifying cases of head lice, all parents are informed and asked to treat their child and all the family if they are found to have head lice.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the school **Health Charter and Health & Safety Policy**

Please refer to the Guidance on Infection Control in Schools and Nurseries on the control of the commoner and more important infections which may be experienced in Nursery Schools. For a further source of information for staff and parents please ring the Wandsworth Environmental Health Department.

If staff members have any concerns regarding Health and Safety, please consult with the Head or Manager and in addition please refer to the Health and Safety information poster outside the school staff room.