Infection Control & Illness Policy (2025–2026)

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1. Purpose

To minimise the spread of infections and illnesses at Little Wonders Nursery, ensuring a safe and healthy environment for children, staff, and visitors.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all children, staff, and visitors at Little Wonders Nursery.

3. Infection Control Procedures

Hand Hygiene:
Staff and children are encouraged to wash their hands regularly, especially before meals, after using the toilet, and after playing outside. Alcohol-based hand sanitisers are provided in key areas.

Cleaning and Sanitising:
Surfaces, toys, and equipment are cleaned and sanitised regularly, especially after use by children who may be ill.

Illness Policy:
Children exhibiting symptoms of contagious illness (e.g., fever, vomiting, diarrhoea, rashes) will be sent home and must remain at home until they are symptom-free for 48 hours or as advised by a healthcare provider.

Vaccination Awareness:
We promote immunisation as a key measure in preventing the spread of infectious diseases. Staff and families are encouraged to ensure that vaccinations are up to date.

Ventilation:
Adequate ventilation is maintained in all areas to reduce the concentration of airborne pathogens. This includes regular airing of rooms and, where possible, the use of mechanical ventilation systems.

4. Exclusion from Nursery

Children with certain infectious diseases (e.g., chickenpox, measles) will be excluded from the nursery for a set period, in line with national health guidelines. An exclusion table is

available to indicate the time period an individual should not attend a setting to reduce the risk of transmission during the infectious stage.

5. Staff Illness

Staff who are ill should stay home to prevent the spread of illness to children and colleagues. Staff are encouraged to seek medical advice if they are unwell and unable to perform their duties.

6. Outbreak Management

In the event of an outbreak of a communicable disease, the nursery will:

- Follow the principles for the identification and management of outbreaks as outlined in the Communicable Disease Outbreak Management Guidance.
- Work closely with local health protection teams to implement appropriate control measures.
- Communicate promptly with parents and staff about the situation and any necessary actions.
- Review and reinforce infection control procedures to prevent further spread.

This policy is reviewed regularly to ensure it remains aligned with current public health guidance and best practices.