RAINBOW’S END MONTESSORI SCHOOL

POLICY & PROCEDURE FOR ILLNESS

It is the policy of Rainbow’s End Montessori School to refuse entry to children who appear unwell or who are, or appear to be, suffering from an infectious illness.

Exclusion periods for illness are in place in order to prevent the spread of infection and also to ensure that children who are unwell receive appropriate care and are able to fully recuperate in a home environment.

Where an exclusion period states a period of time, eg 24 hours or 48 hours, this is by a full day of attendance, not by a part day or part session. For example, if a child normally attends 8.30-3.30 and 11am marks 48 hours since their last episode of vomiting, they are excluded for the whole 8.30-3.30 session, not allowed to return at 11am.

**Conjunctivitis:**

Children may return once they have begun treatment from the pharmacy or GP.

**Covid 19:**

Children who have tested positive for Covid-19 must not attend for 3 days after the day of the test. Children should not attend if they have a high temperature or are unwell.

**Diarrhoea & Vomiting**:

Children who have suffered from diarrhoea or vomiting must not return to school until **at least 48 hours** after the last episode of either diarrhoea or vomiting.

**Head Lice:**

If it is noticed that a child has Head Lice eggs (nits) the person collecting the child is informed and advised that the child needs to be treated by combing.

If a child is seen to have live Head Lice, the child’s parent is contacted to collect the child.

It is the policy of Rainbow’s End Montessori that children who have live Head Lice must be treated before returning to school. This is to prevent the spread of Head Lice.

Staff are always happy to advise parents about treatment for Head Lice.

**Respiratory Infections:**

Children should not attend if they have a high temperature or are unwell.

**Temperature:**

Children should not attend if they have a high temperature. A high temperature is 37.5 or above, or if the child feels hot to touch and appears unwell.

Children must not return to school until they have been clear of a temperature for 24 hours without temperature reducing medication eg Calpol.

**Infectious Illnesses:**

Exclusion periods for all other common infectious illnesses are according to the Department of Health Guidelines.

**Communication with Parents:**

Parents are informed of the outbreak of infectious illnesses by a notice being displayed. Such notices inform parents of the illness, and the exclusion period should their child be affected. In cases where parents may need additional advice or information, a letter is sent out. Individual children are **never** identifiable from information contained in any notices or correspondence to parents.

**Chronic Illnesses or Medical Conditions & Severe Allergies:**

Children with chronic illnesses or medical conditions or who suffer from severe allergies are admitted to Rainbow’s End Montessori School in line with our Equal Opportunities Policy and our Admissions Policy, providing that it is agreed by the School, the parents, and any other agencies involved with the child that the School is able to ensure the child’s safety & to meet the child’s needs with regards to medical care.

Rainbow’s End Montessori School will work in partnership with parents and other agencies involved in the child’s medical care to ensure that all staff are fully trained in understanding the child’s condition and needs.

Where a child will require or may require the administration of medication or other forms of medical care that involve the use of equipment or specific procedures whilst in the care of Rainbow’s End Montessori School, the School will work in partnership with parents and other agencies as appropriate to ensure that all staff are fully trained in these aspects of the child’s care. (In some cases advice may need to be sought from the School’s insurance company to ensure that staff are covered to administer medical procedures).

Where a child suffers from a chronic condition or severe allergy medical professionals may recommend administration of non-prescribed medications in certain circumstances. For example, temperature reducing medication (eg Calpol) to be administered to a child who is prone to febrile convulsions whilst the child awaits collection. In these circumstances the parent will complete a Long Term Medication Form and Rainbow’s End Montessori School will administer non-prescribed medication.

Where a child suffers from an illness, condition or allergy that is affected by particular foods or substances Rainbow’s End Montessori School seek, so far as is reasonably possibly, to adapt activities or foods offered so as to accommodate the child’s needs. Health & Safety rules are in place to ensure that no foods or other substances likely to cause harm or allergic reactions are left in children’s bags or trays. The Health & Safety rules also ensure that all food containers & drinks bottles are labelled with the child’s name. These rules are given to parents as part of the registration procedure. The rules are regularly reinforced, both by staff on a day to day basis, and in newsletters.

**Procedure to follow in the event of a child becoming unwell whilst at school:**

* When it is noticed that a child seems unwell a member of staff investigates the situation by checking them over, talking to them, or taking their temperature, as appropriate.
* The member of staff makes the person in charge aware that the child is unwell.
* When the child’s temperature is taken this is done by using a digital ear thermometer. After taking the temperature, the child’s temperature and the time at which it was taken are recorded in the diary.
* Based on the condition of the child, the person in charge makes a decision as to whether the child needs to remain at school and their condition be monitored, or whether they need to be collected.
* Where it is felt that the child needs to be collected the person in charge contacts the child’s parents or (if parents are not contactable) a person on the child’s emergency contact list to arrange for them to collect the child.
* Whilst the child is waiting to be collected a member of staff is deployed to care for the child one-to-one, offering care & comfort as necessary, and monitoring the child’s condition until the child is collected.
* If the child’s condition gives cause for serious concern, follow the procedures for Injuries requiring Emergency Medical Treatment.