



Sawston Nursery Covid19 Operation Plan/Policy for Parents and Children - Updated on 31st January 2022 in line with changes to Government Guidelines from 27th January 2022

The fundamental principle of this plan is to ensure physical distancing between groups and to implement good hygiene practices. Our primary aim is to keep the nursery as safe as possible from the transmission of COVID. We know the working environment will be different however, children should not feel a significant change in their nursery experience.

The Operation Plan below, contains guidance from the Department of Education and the government to create protective measures for all children, their families and the staff working in the nursery.

- Any Positive COVID cases will be reported to Ofsted to reflect change in confirmatory PCR testing advice.

Focus	Area of consideration	Recommendations
	Attendance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only children who are symptom free of COVID and have completed the required isolation period should attend the Nursery. • Children must be symptom free for 48hrs before returning to the setting and well enough to attend. • The porch area in the nursery will be used to drop off children in this current climate. However, parents/carers can enter the setting to collect their child/ren providing they do not have any COVID symptoms and have not tested positive. • A familiar adult should drop off your child and collect to prevent different people entering the porch of the nursery. • Masks must be worn by adults until further notice when entering the porch and the nursery areas. Also, if parents/carers and visitors could support the Nursery by carry out regular LFT this will be beneficial to creating a safer environment.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please ensure your child sanitises their hands before entering the nursery. • Please give priority to staff waiting to enter the nursery so they can prepare themselves and be in the classroom to greet the children. • Tracing of close contacts and self-isolation of close contacts in early years settings are now being identified by NHS Test and Trace and education and childcare settings are not expected to undertake contact tracing. As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case to identify close contacts. Contacts from a setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case and/or their parent or carer specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact. This is likely to be a small number of individuals who would be most at risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of the close contact. You may be contacted in exceptional cases to help with identifying close contacts, as currently happens in managing other infectious diseases.
	<p>Physical Distancing/Grouping</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children are currently organised into their classroom bubble groups. • From week beg 25th October 2021 we re-merged the Poppy and Daffodil, large garden area. • Staff will not enter other classrooms wherever possible. Unless they are employed as a 'Float or Bank Member' of staff or having to cover other members of the team. Also, we may need certain members of the team to enter or cover staffing in the classrooms to ensure we adhere to ratios wherever possible. • Staff will, wherever possible, minimise contact and mixing of children across the nursery, where children are not in their classroom group. • Use of the toilet and communal internal areas will be restricted and monitored and kept clean at all times.

Health and Safety



- The Prime Minister announced on 19th January 2022, that the temporary introduction of Plan B is to end. The advice remains subject to change as the situation developed.
- The government considers COVID to be an exceptional circumstance where staff to child ratios set in the EYFS standards can be temporarily change, if necessary, to respond to COVID related workforce absences.
- In exceptional cases for the purposes of meeting the EYFS ratio and qualification requirements, all staff educating or caring for a mixed age group of children can be considered, available to work directly with all of the children who have been grouped together.
- In all circumstances, risk assessments would be carried out and the nursery are responsible for maintaining the quality of care, safety, and security of children.
- From 27th January 2022, face coverings are no longer advised to be work by staff and visitors in communal areas. You should follow wider advice on face coverings outside of the setting, including on transport to and from the nursery.
- The director of public health might advise that face coverings should be temporarily worn in communal areas, unless exempt.
- There will be no changes at nursery until 27th January 2022 and you will be kept informed of these changes.
- Parent and child groups can now operate as normal and without restrictions on attendance.
- There are no limits on the number of people who can sing indoors or outdoors.
- In situations where there is a higher risk of catching or passing on COVID you should follow the guidance on '**coronavirus: how to stay safe and help prevent the spread**'
- Staff have guidance on appropriate PPE and the operating procedures we have in place in nursery.
- Staff will wear a mask whilst using any communal areas and entering a classroom where they do not normally work and where social distancing is not possible across the nursery until

		<p>further notice notified of a change in circumstances (Unless they are exempt). Staff can make their own choice to wear a mask in the classroom under current government guidance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Health England have produced a flowchart for the nursery staff to use which must be followed in the event of suspected or confirmed cases of COVID in the nursery. • Johnathan Lewis (DfE, Service Director, Cambridgeshire County Council) has produced a flow chart to share with all individuals, how to reduce the spread of infection. This has been shared via facebook on 5th January 2022. • Lunch breaks will be staggered for the staff to enable social distancing in the staff room. • Staff are to ensure that they sanitise their hands when entering and exiting the staffroom and classrooms to avoid transmitting the virus. • If your child has been given Calpol prior to coming into the nursery and requires 1:1 care due to being unwell, they should stay at home, as we are not able to give them the attention, they require throughout the session with one adult attending to their needs. We all know the best place for a sick child is at home with their main parent/carer. Please refer to our, Managing Sick Children Policy, on our website at www.sawstonnursery.org • There is appropriate PPE to be worn which is kept in a plastic container found in the manager's office. This is to be used if a child displays COVID symptoms. • All areas of the nursery will be kept well ventilated, with door and windows open where possible. • Any Positive COVID cases will be reported to Ofsted to reflect the change in confirmatory PCR testing advice. • If you collect your child from nursery with suspected COVID symptoms, you will be requested to seek medical advice as to whether to obtain a COVID test (PCR) and are asked to keep the setting informed of the outcomes. If a child or member of staff have been sick, have had a high temperature or diarrhoea, they must not return to the setting for at least
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		<p>48 hours after symptoms last showed and they feel well enough to attend (Please refer to the <i>Managing Sick Children Policy</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Important note: Whilst teething is known to cause such side effects as rosy cheeks and sore gums, <u>NHS guidelines</u> do not consider a high temperature to be a side effect of teething, as such it is not to be considered when suspecting COVID.• Public Health England advise that if a child's temperature reaches 38 and above the parent must collect their child from the nursery (as a temperature is symptom of COVID) and a PCR test may be advised by your GP. We ask that you let the nursery know the outcome of the PCR test before your child returns to the nursery.• A child should be well for 48 hours after any illness before they are able to return to the Nursery, as per our <i>Managing Sick Children Policy</i>, which can be found on our website at www.sawstonnursery.org, parents may also ask for a copy from our admin or management team.• If a child's temperature reaches 38 degrees and is showing symptoms of a fever, we will take the child's temperature using a digital thermometer, a second reading will be taken 10 to 15 minutes later and thereafter for up to one hour before calling the parent to collect the child from Nursery. Staff will record all temperatures taken as evidence of changes in a child's temperature and share with the parents via Tapestry or paper format. If we give a paper copy, then one copy to be kept on file and one will be given to the parents. <p><u>Symptoms of a possible suspected case of COVID:</u></p> <p>Most people with coronavirus have a least one of the following symptoms and you will need to be aware of this if your child becomes unwell:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) A high temperature - hot to touch on chest or back.
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- 2) A new continuous cough - coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours.
- 3) A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste - this means you have noticed you cannot smell or taste anything or things smell or taste different to normal.

Please note the infectious period is from two days prior to the onset of symptoms, or positive test result if asymptomatic, to 10 days after.

- If you live in the same household as someone who has COVID you are at a significantly higher risk of becoming infectious yourself. However, if you have been vaccinated with the COVID vaccine, you are less likely to become ill. You are also less likely to spread COVID to other people, but this is still possible. Therefore, if you are aged 18 years and 6 months or over and are not fully vaccinated* and live in the same household as someone with COVID, you are legally required to stay at home and self-isolate.
- If you are fully vaccinated or under the age of 18 years and 6 months and live in a household with someone with COVID you are not legally required too self-isolate. However, you are strongly advised to take a LFT every day for 7 days. Self-isolate if any of the test results are positive.
- * You are classed as fully vaccinated 14 days after receiving 2 doses of an approved vaccine.
- Attached to the letter on our facebook page from Jonathan Lewis there is a flow chart for self-isolation.
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Temporary suspension of confirmatory PCR tests in education and childcare settings Confirmatory PCR testing following a positive result on a lateral flow device (LFD) will be temporarily suspended from today, Tuesday 11 January. This means that for all education and childcare settings, staff who


have tested positive and reported a positive LFD result will no longer be advised to get a confirmatory PCR test.


This change is informed by public health advice. With high COVID-19 rates, the risk of a positive LFD result being false is very small. We therefore don't need to ask people to do a confirmatory PCR unless they:


- have symptoms (in which case they need to follow the stay-at-home guidance, self-isolate and order a PCR test)
- wish to claim the Test and Trace Support Payment
- have been advised to take a PCR test because they are in a clinically vulnerable group
 - have been advised to do so as part of a research or surveillance programme


Education and childcare settings are not expected to trace contacts of a positive case as this will remain the responsibility of NHS Test and Trace. From today, Tuesday 11 January, contact tracing is triggered once a positive LFD test is reported.

From Monday 17th January, people who are self-isolating with covid 19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to their education or childcare setting immediately on day 6. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be reported to NHS Test and Trace.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circumstances that may require a child/family to self-isolate even though they are not displaying symptoms, such as having travelled to a destination on the government list requiring isolation on return. Please ensure that you inform the nursery of any travel outside of the United Kingdom. • All toys and resources that are used by the children during the day must be cleaned using Milton or anti bac spray daily. • All soft furnishings/soft toys and dressing up clothes will continue to be washed regularly. • Sand play is closely monitored, and sand changed regularly. Children wash hands before and after play in the larger sand pit. • Staff in communal areas are monitored, and numbers are restricted to ensure safer social distancing and will be asked to wear a mask where distancing is not possible. • If a member of staff develops suspected COVID symptoms whilst working at the nursery they will be sent home immediately and isolate at home in line with the NHS guidance and seek medical advice in regard to testing.
	<p>Food Preparations</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our cook will continue to provide all snacks, lunches, and tea to the children in the nursery. • Our cook will deliver the meals to each classroom for the children and leave the trolley outside of the classroom door for collection by a member of staff (or staff will collect their trolley from the corridor outside of the kitchen). • When mealtime is over, the cook will collect the trolley from outside of the classroom door. • If staff need to contact the kitchen, please use the internal communication system. • Our cook will wear appropriate PPE to minimise the risk of contamination to the food. • Blue disposable gloves and aprons must be worn by all staff throughout serving any food to the children. • Staff handling food are in receipt of their Level 2 Food Hygiene training certificate.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff must ensure that they wash/ sanitise their hands before and after supporting with mealtimes in the room and when on their lunch/ rest breaks. • Our cook will be solely responsible for the food deliveries where disposable gloves will be worn on collection of the food from the front entrance.
	<p>Wellbeing and education</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children will be supported in age-appropriate ways to understand the steps they can take to keep themselves safe including regular hand washing and sneezing into a tissue. • Children will be supported to use sanitiser/ handwashing where necessary. • Children will be supported to understand the changes and challenges they may be encountering as a result of COVID. • Staff need to ensure they are aware of children's attachments and their need for emotional support at this time. • Through imaginative play staff will teach children about social distancing and the importance of changes we are now experiencing in our lives. • Activities will support and nurture children in developing their social and emotional well-being and resilience. • Drop off in the morning will now take place in the foyer until further notice (From 18/08/2021). • Pick-ups from the 6th of September 2021 - Parents (wearing masks) will be allowed to enter the nursery for pick up only until further notice! This will be done using our traffic light system of one parent per room at any one time. However, should there be a confirmed case or localised outbreak we will return drop off and collection taking place in the porch area. • <i>Any parents/ carers who have symptoms or have been requested to self-isolate are politely reminded not to attend the setting.</i>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feel free to contact us through Tapestry and e mail if you have any questions or queries during the day.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>Personal Hygiene</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff and children are expected to wash their hands for 20 seconds with running water and soap and then dry thoroughly. Handwashing is encouraged throughout the day at regular intervals. • Staff, parents, and children should sanitise their hands on arrival at the nursery as they depart at the end of the day. (Hand Sanitiser can be found on the red table in the foyer). • Hand sanitiser is provided in the classrooms and areas around the nursery including the staffroom. • Nappies will continue to be disposed of in a hygienic manner. Re useable nappies will not be used during this period to reduce the possibility of transmission through bodily fluids. • All gloves and PPE will be disposed in a nappy sack/medical waste bag immediately after use placed in a closed bin. • Please discourage your children from bringing in toys from home unless essential. We understand that some children require a comforter, and we will endeavour to ensure that these are accessible to the individual child only. This will help prevent children becoming distressed when another child wants their toy, as well as preventing loss, damage, or transfer of viruses. • Posters are displayed in the nursery to demonstrate good hygiene practices. • Staff are encouraged to sneeze in the crook of their arm. • No flannels or towels will be shared by children and are washed after every use. • If baking is taking place in nursery individual resources must be used and cleaned after use. • Windows are to be opened throughout the day to ensure good ventilation in the rooms prior to the children entering the nursery. • Lockers are used by staff to store personal belongings.

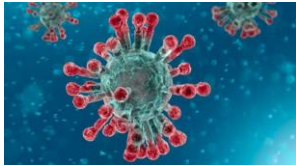
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff to provide their own mugs and no washing up is to be left in the sink area. • Staff lunches are to be placed in the fridge in sealed containers or bags only. • Staff are to have their hair tied back in the classroom and not wear jewellery although wedding rings and stud earrings are acceptable. • Regular spot checks will be carried out by the management team to ensure cleaning is of a high standard throughout the nursery.
Cleaning		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An enhanced cleaning schedule is in place to include all furniture, surfaces and children's toys and equipment. • Within classroom and communal areas, touch points and handwashing facilities are cleaned and sanitised regularly throughout the day. • Mop heads are to be changed daily in the classrooms and toilet mops are changed immediately after use. • We employ a cleaning company who come into the nursery, after closure on a daily basis, to ensure all areas are cleaned to a high quality.
Risk Assessment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have a risk assessment in place where consideration has been given to any adaptations to usual practice. <p>An outbreak management plan is in place, outlining how the Nursery would operate if any of the measures described within the contingency framework were recommended in their area for any reason.</p> <p>The Contingency Framework describes the principles of managing local outbreaks of COVID-19 (Including responding to variants of concern) in education and childcare settings.</p> <p>The Contingency Framework is considered alongside the relevant Covid-19 Guidance for those settings.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our risk assessment highlights any risks in the COVID pandemic, and the safety control measures currently in place throughout the nursery.
	PPE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government guidance is that PPE is not required for general use in Early Years settings to protect against COVID transmission. • PPE should continue to be worn as normal for nappy changing and the administration of first aid.
	Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents will receive clear communication regarding the safe operating procedure and measures being taken to ensure the safety of their children and themselves.
	Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents should not leave car seats, scooters, or buggies in the setting premises due to space restrictions and transmission of viruses. • Outings from the setting into the local community are risk assessed and in line with government guidelines. Outings do not include mixing with members of the general public.
	Visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance to the setting is restricted as far as practically possible to staff and children unless there is essential maintenance that needs to be carried out. Essential work will be carried out, as far as possible, when the nursery is closed to the children.
	Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children should not bring items from home into the setting unless absolutely essential for their well-being. • All resources required for play and learning experiences of children should be regularly washed and/or sterilised where appropriate.
Supplies	Procurement and monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The setting ensures an adequate supply of essential supplies and plans are in place to minimise the impact of any shortages of supplies. Supplies are needed for the infection control. • PPE is monitored to meet the operational needs of the nursery.



Staff

Lateral Flow Testing



- All staff are offered and encouraged to participate in twice weekly Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests, these are free and available to all staff in the nursery. They are used to detect COVID-19 in asymptomatic individuals and therefore support us in making our environment as safe as possible.
- Staff may conduct the test at home, before coming into work, twice a week.
- Tina and Emma are responsible for the distribution, record keeping and sharing of information with the NHS related to the Lateral Flow Testing.