

COVID19 POLICY

At the **Mulberry Bush** we follow all the *Government Guidelines* and *Public Health England* recommendations and we have put all the protective measures in place to ensure that the risk of transmission is reduced for all children, parents and staff.

We aim to provide a healthy and safe environment and demonstrate a commitment to health, safety and the welfare of children parents and staff.

- Staff and children will not attend the setting if they have symptoms or are self-isolating for 14 days due to symptoms in their household. These symptoms include; - high temperature
 - persistent dry cough
 - loss of taste or smell
- We include a risk assessment which directly addresses the risks associated with Coronavirus, so that sensible measures can be put in place to control the risks for children, staff and their households.
- We have undertaken a health and safety check of the building which houses our setting. We have considered Legionnaires risk assessment.
- We ensure sufficient hand washing facilities (running water and soap sanitiser and skin friendly wipes) are available for staff and children and that hands are washed upon entering the setting, regularly throughout the day, before and after eating and when they leave. We ensure children are supervised when doing this and learn how to do it effectively. We ensure we have a good supply of disposable tissues throughout the setting to implement "catch it, bin it, kill it". We ensure the availability of lidded bins, preferably operated by a foot pedal and

that tissues are immediately disposed into bins and that these are emptied throughout the day.

- We have considered how floor space, room and outdoor space can be organised to ensure physical distancing between staff and between groups of children. We have considered the EYFS aged based space requirements. We have removed all soft toys and any toys that are hard to clean, such as those made of wood and those with intricate parts. We have removed soft furnishings for example pillows, bean bags and rugs.

We have considered where suppliers and contractors may be visiting the setting though this is rare, and put physical distancing and hygiene measures in place and communicated.

We have returned to normal group sizes in our setting as according to the Government Guidelines

We will adopt the "System of Controls" in a robust way to ensure that there are proportionate safeguards for children as well as staff and reduce the chance of transmission.

- We have ensured that physical distancing between the children and staff are as distanced as possible.

- that the sharing of toys and resources is reduced

- that any toys or resources that are shared can be easily cleaned between different groups use.

We consider how snacks and mealtimes can be planned to ensure groups of children are kept together. During snack and mealtimes, children will sit at a safe distance from each other.

- We ensure surfaces that children and staff are touching such as toys,

doors, sinks, toilets, light switches are cleaned more regularly than usual by putting in place an enhanced cleaning schedule using disinfection as appropriate. We ensure that items are laundered such as towels and flannels are washed at 60 degrees and these items are not shared by children between washes.

We ensure that there are clear procedures for maintaining stringent cleaning processes for food preparation areas and dining areas. We have communicated a policy of leaving items and toys at home to parents.

- We have put procedures in place to reduce contact between parents and carers when dropping off and picking up their children. We limit drop off and pick up to one parent or carer per family. We give them a staggered time slot to drop off and collect their child. We do not allow parents and carers into the setting; they will drop off at the gate where a member will welcome their child.

We have placed markings outside the gate to facilitate social distancing measures.

We will keep windows open as far as possible and use the outdoor areas as much as possible. We will limit external visitors to the setting and we will ensure they only come into the building when strictly necessary for example; providing an essential service or essential support for a child's health and well being.

Show rounds for new children will be conducted out of hours.

- All staff will complete a return to work induction:

-the new rules are reinforced and all staff are clear of the *Government Guidelines*.

-Instructions on putting on, taking off and disposing of PPE.

-Ensure staff understand that if they develop Coronavirus symptoms or someone in their household who does, should not attend the setting in any circumstances.

-Ensure staff understand that if they develop Coronavirus symptoms they are entitled to a test and are encouraged to organise one.

- Anyone who displays Coronavirus symptoms while in the setting should be sent home immediately and follow the *Government Guidelines*.

Parents or carers of the ill child are informed and asked to collect their child straight away. If a child is waiting to be collected they should be separated from their group and isolated with one member of staff. A face mask, visor, gloves and an apron should be worn. Once the child or member of staff has left the setting, the setting should follow a strict cleaning process so all areas are disinfected and all PPE and other waste is disposed of safely.

Where the child or staff member tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self isolation.

If a child or staff member tests positive the rest of the immediate group within their setting should be sent home and advised to self isolate for 14 days. The other household members of those advised to self isolate do not need to self isolate unless the child or staff member they live with subsequently develops symptoms.

We will contact PHE (Public Health England) 0113 386 0300 out of hours number: 0114 304 9343. Staff will independently arrange a test through gov.uk or ring 911

- We will endeavor to deliver EYFS learning and development requirements as far as possible in the current circumstances. We will provide an environment that invites learning across all 7 areas as is practicable at this time. We will minimize the sharing of resources between groups for example; painting, sticking and outdoor construction activities. Malleable resources will not be shared among the children. Outdoor space will be used as much as possible.

We will continue to support the children who choose to not attend the setting via Tapestry.

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the pre-school	Date for review
28 th May 2020 02/09/2020		On a regular basis to stay in line with government guidance