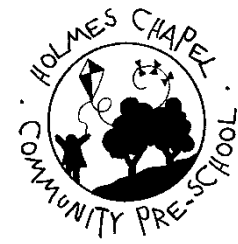


Holmes Chapel Community Pre-school
Holmes Chapel Primary School, Middlewich Road, Holmes Chapel,
Cheshire CW4 7EB



Registered Charity Number 1017112

Covid-19 Policy- latest revision January 2022

This policy outlines the measures and steps which Holmes Chapel Community Preschool has taken to enable us to provide childcare during the coronavirus pandemic. This policy has been written in line with current government guidance and aims to reduce the risk of potential spreading of the Covid-19 virus within the preschool to children, parents and staff. This policy does not replace any current policies, however it explains the additional measures that we are undertaking with regards to safety and hygiene during this time.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures>

Children

During the coronavirus pandemic steps will be taken to reduce the risk of potential spreading of the Covid-19 virus. The steps that will be taken are as follows:

- Parents are reminded that children are not to bring toys from home into the preschool.
- Where possible most play will take place in the outdoors.

Parents

Parents will **not** be permitted into the building from 1st September 2020, except by prior arrangement with the Manager.

Parents/ carers will be asked to follow the one way system around the preschool grounds. Parents/ carers will be responsible for their children during this time and are asked to **not** allow children to access the play equipment or ramps whilst queuing.

Parents/carers are to place children's lunchboxes onto the lunch box trolley and place their water beaker on the tray for access throughout the session. Children will access the preschool via the ramp and parents/ carers are to leave the preschool via the path adjacent promptly to enable other parents/ carers to drop their children off.

Parents or carers will be required to sign their child in and out of the pre-school using the pre-populated form.

There may be times where parents will be required to queue when dropping off or collecting their children, although social distancing rules have been relaxed, parents are advised to maintain a distance of 1 metre plus where possible.

We urge parents to consider using the time between 9 - 9:20 am to drop their children off.

We ask that one parent/carer from the child's household drop off and collect at any one time.

Staff

Where possible the staff will remain the same for the full session to reduce the risk of infection and we will try to avoid staff starting their shift part way through the day, unless this is necessary due to unforeseen circumstances.

All staff have undertaken an infection control course to ensure they are able to follow procedures effectively.

We encourage all of our staff to test twice weekly using a Lateral Flow Device.

Visitors (including deliveries)

Only visitors that are important, for example to support a child's learning and development needs, or for the running of the setting, will be permitted into the preschool. This will be by appointment only. All visitors entering the setting will be required to sign in, including relevant information required, should we need to share this in line with Test and Trace.

Where possible any meetings in session time are held outside in the play area.

Hand sanitiser and face masks are available, but are not mandatory.

Any deliveries will be requested to be dropped off behind the gate and staff will bring this safely inside the preschool.

Admission visits for new starters will take place outside of hours.

Illness

We ask parents to be honest and open about any illness you or your child has had prior to attending Holmes Chapel Community Preschool.

We understand children can suffer from a range of common childhood illnesses, therefore we would ask parents/ carers to contact us to discuss any symptoms of illness they are displaying. Should a child display any of the known Covid symptoms, parents/carers are required to follow current government advice on testing and isolation.

Where a child displays symptoms of coronavirus during the session they will be removed from their group and placed with a member of staff in a separate area of the preschool, away from the other children. The staff member will be required to wear full personal protective equipment (PPE) including gloves, an apron and a face mask. Parents will be telephoned to collect their child from the setting as soon as possible and to follow government guidelines. All areas which the child has used will be fully cleaned once they have been collected from the setting.

Testing

We ask parents/carers/staff to keep us informed on the status of any relevant Covid test results to enable us to effectively manage the preschool.

If a child or staff member tests **positive** to either a LFD or PCR test, they must inform the Preschool and self-isolate following current government guidelines.

In line with Government guidance, anybody who is displaying symptoms of Covid 19 is required to undertake a PCR test.

Close contacts are no longer required to self-isolate following a positive case of Covid-19, including within their own household, if they are under 18 years 6 months old, are fully vaccinated, if they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial or they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons. Any close contacts will be notified via Test and Trace.

If a child or staff member who has displayed Covid symptoms subsequently tests **negative** to their PCR we ask for them to contact the manager as soon as possible to discuss a return date to preschool.

Following any positive cases at Holmes Chapel Community Pre-School, we will inform Ofsted, the Local Authority, parents/carers and may seek advice from the Department for Education.

Test and Trace

Holmes Chapel Community Pre-school will maintain the relevant data to assist with Test and Trace.

Cleaning and hygiene

We continue to maintain high standards of cleanliness at Holmes Chapel Community Preschool via a regular cleaning routine.

High contact areas such as tables, door handles, light switches etc. will be cleaned daily. The toilet areas will be cleaned at additional times throughout the day.

Regular hand washing will take place for both staff and children.

We promote '*catch it, bin it, kill it*'.

Windows are open throughout the sessions and doors are open as much as possible to ventilate the classroom. We use an air quality monitoring device to provide confirmation of effective ventilation by measuring the carbon dioxide level in the classroom.

Reduced Capacity

In the case of a number of staff having to self-isolate or stay home with their own children, preschool may have to operate on a reduced capacity. All sessions would be considered with priority given to our vulnerable children. We would aim to accommodate funded hours, however, this would be dependent on ratios.

Contingency plan

Should a high proportion of children or staff at pre-school test positive for Covid-19, we may need to take further action to help prevent the spread of infection at pre-school. A member of the management team would gain advice from the Local Authority, Public Health and/ or the

Department for Education. [Contingency framework: education and childcare settings - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/contingency-framework-education-and-childcare-settings)
(www.gov.uk)

Changes

As you are aware, the Covid-19 pandemic is a fast evolving situation and guidelines change on a regular basis. Therefore, we may adapt this policy at any time to adhere to a change in guidelines/circumstances.

Last reviewed: January 2022