

Covid-19 Secure Policy

This policy is written and put in place following the national pandemic of Covid-19 and the implications and impacts it has had on Kingfisher Kindergarten and the way we operate.

Safety is the number one priority for staff, children and their parents/carers. We will adhere to all Government Guidelines and put in place all measures to ensure the safety of everyone on site.

Preparing the Premises

The premises will be inspected before reopening. Health and Safety checks will be made to assess the premises is fit for opening after a long period of closure. All water, gas and electricity appliances will be checked and ensured it is working sufficiently. All the same Health and Safety policies will continue to stay in place as normal. We will introduce more vigorous hand washing routines in the setting for both the children and staff, such as washing hands when they arrive and before and after each activity. Thorough Risk Assessments will take place before opening and ongoing risks will be assessed and actioned on an on-going basis. Some unnecessary equipment/activities have already been risk assessed and will be altered or in light of the Covid-19 restrictions, removed for the safety of the staff and children and to minimise the spread of any germs. Soft toys and furnishings and toys with intricate parts have also been removed. The arrival and collection processes have been considered and risk assessed for the safety of staff, parent/carers and children. Upon arrival, there will be 2m distance markers on the floor to adhere to social distancing guidelines and parents will be asked to adhere to queuing and keeping their distance until they are able to enter. Only one parent is able to drop off and collect. Only one parent will be allowed on the premises at once whilst taking their child in. Entrance will be through the main doors and we will allow parents to exit through the office door so that parents do not cross paths during the drop off period. Collection will take place from the garden gate. The premises will be cleaned every night by a cleaning company. Frequent cleaning of toys, equipment, toilets, door handles and frequently touched surfaces will also be done throughout the day by staff to ensure the environment is hygienic. Bins will be emptied daily. We have assessed space management and altered the setting to ensure the maximum space is available to ensure safe play and good distances can be adhered to by staff.

Practical Measures to Reduce Risk

We have considered and put in place lots of measures to ensure the safety of staff and children. We will welcome back a small group of children and keep to the same staff members. Where we need to introduce a second group, we will ensure the same staff stay with the same group wherever possible. As a setting, we will continue to abide by the EYFS Guidelines and Ratios to provide the best care to the children in our setting. Early Years children are not expected to self distance, however we will ensure good ventilation of the indoor areas and encourage as much outdoor play as possible and have trips on the field so children have access to and benefit from more open space. Parents have been informed of the process if any child is showing symptoms of Covid-19 and also to keep them off if they are ill with any other virus/illness. Testing is available to everyone in the UK and any family/staff will be encouraged to take a test if any symptom arises. We will follow the PHE Flow Chart procedure that is displayed in the office, main room and on the parent noticeboard. Frequent handwashing routines are in place for staff and children, with additional posters being displayed by each handwashing station for visual explanation to younger children. Parents/carers will be asked to have minimal contact with staff/children inside the setting. We have advised that if parents/carers wish to discuss any issues, their children's needs or provide general feedback, to do this via telephone, text message or email to reduce the person to person contact on site. We will be teaching and asking children to use a tissue and the 'Catch it, Kill it, Bin it' approach when they cough/sneeze and to wash their hands afterwards. There are Three Hand sanitiser stations in the setting, one in the office, one by the main door and one in the main room hatch area. We have reviewed the Daily Routine and will adapt this as appropriate with the reduced opening times. We will not be offering fruit snack time while we operate reduced hours. Lunch time will be from 12-1pm and children need to bring their pack lunches from home, which will be wiped down with antibacterial wipes upon arrival.

Personal Protective Equipment including Face Masks/Face Coverings

Face Coverings/Masks is not recommended and the staff will not be wearing these during the day to day activities and routine. When a child is displaying Covid-19 symptoms, they must be isolated from the group by one staff member and that staff member must wear a face masks, apron, gloves and try to as much as possible remain at the 2m distance guideline until the child is collected. Staff may also, if they wish, wear a Face Mask whilst they are changing nappies and have to be in close contact with a child for a longer period of time. Aprons and gloves will be worn as normal and in line with our Nappy Changing Policy.

Shielded/Clinically vulnerable person

If a child is advised by the NHS to shield for a medical condition, it is advised that the child does not return until advised and safe to do so. If a child lives with someone who is clinically vulnerable, shielding or pregnant, they are able to return as per Government advice.

Taking Temperatures

We do not need to take children's temperatures every morning or throughout the day. Public Health England's guidance is that routine testing of an individual's temperature is not a reliable method for identifying coronavirus. There is no need for anything other than normal personal hygiene and washing of clothes following a day at Kingfisher.

If Child/Staff displays symptoms

Official Symptoms of Covid-19 are:-

- A High Temperature
- A new, Continuous cough
- A loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste

If a child displays any Covid-19 Symptoms, they should be isolated from the group with a member of staff, their parent/carer contact for immediate collection. They should self isolate with their family at home for 7 days and arrange to have a test done through the NHS website or calling NHS 119 via phone if they do not have access to the internet. All other children, their families and staff who have had contact with the suspected case will be advised to get tested. As a precaution, we will close Kingfisher until the test results come back. Where the child or staff member tests negative, we can return to Kingfisher and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation. Where the child or staff member tests positive, we will inform all involved and who has had contact with that person and advise them to self-isolate for 14 days and advised to get tested. As part of the national test and trace programme, if other cases are detected in the wider setting, Public Health England's local health protection teams will be contacted and conduct a rapid investigation and will advise on the most appropriate action to take.

Safeguarding, SEND, Child wellbeing and welfare requirements

We will be continuing to support the children who require additional needs and those who need safeguarding measure put in place. Childrens wellbeing and welfare will be assessed as normal and relevant action will be taken as part of our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

Resources used:-

Implementing Protective measures in education and childcare settings -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

Preparing for wider opening of Early Years -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider-opening-of-early-years-and-childcare-settings-from-1-june/planning-guide-for-early-years-and-childcare-settings>

Safe Working in Education - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care-settings-including-the-use-of-personal-protective-equipment-ppe>

Cleaning in non-healthcare settings - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings>

EYFS Covid 19 Guidelines - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2/early-years-foundation-stage-coronavirus-disapplications>

This policy was reviewed by Kingfisher Kindergarten Ltd

Date to be reviewed

Annually

Signed on behalf of the provider

La-Ryne van der Westhuizen

Role of signatory

Owner