



Sickness and Illness Policy

At Cherish Childcare we promote the good health, including oral health, of all children attending the nursery. We take reasonable steps to reduce the spread of infection and to ensure that children who become unwell receive appropriate care and that parents or carers are contacted promptly.

Promoting good health

- Parents and carers are asked to keep children at home when they are unwell and not well enough to participate comfortably in the nursery day.
- Staff, students, volunteers and visitors should not attend the setting where illness or infection means their presence could place children or others at risk.
- Children are offered balanced and nutritious meals, snacks and drinks and have access to fresh drinking water.
- Good handwashing, cleaning and infection-control routines are promoted throughout the setting.
- Children have regular access to outdoor play and appropriate ventilation is maintained indoors.
- Parents and carers may be signposted to reliable public-health information about childhood vaccination, vitamins, sleep and other aspects of healthy development.
- Children are provided with safe and appropriate opportunities for rest and sleep according to their age and individual needs.

If a child becomes unwell at nursery

- A member of staff will assess the child and inform the manager or most senior member of staff on duty.
- The parent or carer will be contacted and, where the child is not well enough to remain at nursery, asked to collect the child as soon as possible.
- If the parent or carer cannot be reached, staff will work through the child's other parent/carer and emergency contact numbers until contact is established.
- While waiting for collection, the child will be cared for in a quiet and comfortable area, supervised by a familiar member of staff wherever possible. Appropriate PPE will be used where required.
- The child will be monitored and their condition recorded where appropriate. If their condition deteriorates or there is concern about a medical emergency, staff will call 999 and follow the emergency procedure in this policy.
- Parents and carers will be given clear information about the child's symptoms, any care given and any medication administered in accordance with the Medication Policy.

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
1 September 2026	Cherish Childcare	1 September 2027



Infectious diseases and exclusion

Cherish Childcare follows the current UK Health Security Agency national guidance for health protection in education and childcare settings, including the guidance on managing specific infectious diseases. Exclusion periods and any additional control measures will be based on that guidance and any advice received from relevant health-protection professionals.

We do not apply a single exclusion period to all illnesses. The required period away from nursery will depend on the specific illness, the child's symptoms and current national guidance.

- Parents and carers should inform the nursery if their child has been diagnosed with an infectious or communicable disease.
- Where appropriate, the nursery will inform other families that an infectious illness has been identified, while maintaining the confidentiality of the affected child and family.
- Areas, toys, resources and equipment that may have been contaminated will be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with infection-control procedures.
- Where required, management will seek advice from the relevant health-protection service and follow any instructions given.

Serious illness and statutory notifications

Where a child experiences a serious illness while in our care, Cherish Childcare will take immediate action to safeguard the child, including obtaining emergency medical assistance where necessary.

- Ofsted will be notified, as soon as reasonably practicable and within the applicable statutory timescale, of any serious illness affecting a child while in our care where notification is required under the EYFS, together with the action taken.
- Ofsted will be notified of any food poisoning affecting two or more children cared for on the premises, as soon as reasonably practicable and within the required statutory timescale.
- Where an illness is a notifiable disease or where public-health advice is required, management will follow the current national notification and health-protection arrangements.

Antibiotics and prescribed medication

Children taking antibiotics are not automatically excluded for a fixed period simply because an antibiotic has been prescribed. Attendance will depend on the child's overall wellbeing, the illness being treated, any applicable exclusion guidance and whether the nursery can safely meet the child's needs.

Where medication is required during the nursery day, it will be administered only in accordance with Cherish Childcare's Medication Policy, including parental consent, recording, dosage and storage requirements.

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Refusal of admission or request for collection

The manager or most senior member of staff on duty may refuse admission, or ask for a child to be collected, where the child is unwell, cannot comfortably participate in the nursery day, requires care that the setting cannot safely provide at that time, or where attendance would conflict with current health-protection guidance. Decisions will be based on the child's welfare, the safety of others and the information available at the time.

Head lice

Parents and carers are encouraged to check children's hair regularly and to inform the nursery if head lice are identified so that other families can be reminded, without identifying the child, to check and treat where necessary. Head lice will be managed in accordance with current public-health advice.

Notifiable and serious infectious diseases

If the nursery is informed that a child has a serious or notifiable infectious disease, management will follow current UK Health Security Agency guidance and any advice from the relevant health-protection service. Appropriate authorities, including Ofsted, will be notified where the circumstances meet a statutory notification requirement.

Emergency medical treatment and hospital transfer

If a child becomes seriously unwell or requires urgent hospital treatment, staff will prioritise emergency medical care and will not delay treatment while waiting for a parent or carer to arrive.

- Inform the manager or most senior member of staff immediately.
- Call 999 for an ambulance where the illness or condition is severe or urgent and follow the instructions of the emergency call handler.
- Contact the parent or carer as soon as possible and arrange for them to meet the child at the nursery or hospital as appropriate.
- Redeploy staff where necessary so that safe supervision and required ratios are maintained for the remaining children.
- Where a staff member accompanies the child in an ambulance, the most appropriate staff member will be chosen and will take relevant information, medication, health plans and emergency contact information where available without delaying treatment.
- Remain calm and provide reassurance to the child and to any other children who have witnessed the incident.
- Record the incident and action taken as soon as practicably possible.

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Transport to hospital where an ambulance is not required

Where hospital assessment is advised but an ambulance is not required, the preferred arrangement is for the parent or carer to transport the child. Cherish Childcare will avoid transporting a child in a staff member's private vehicle wherever a reasonable alternative is available.

If exceptional circumstances mean that transport in a private vehicle is considered, management will follow the nursery's insurer requirements and ensure that the arrangement is lawful and safe. Considerations include parental permission, suitable child restraint, business insurance, a roadworthy vehicle, safe staffing ratios, an additional adult escort where required, and a clear plan for what to do if the child's condition deteriorates during the journey.

Medication

Cherish Childcare has a separate Medication Policy covering prescription medicines, non-prescription medicines, specialist and emergency medication, parental consent, staff training, administration records and safe storage. This policy should be read alongside it.

Recording and confidentiality

Relevant sickness, illness, collection, emergency-treatment and notification information will be recorded accurately and stored securely. Information about a child's health will only be shared with those who have a legitimate need to know, except where wider sharing is necessary to protect a child or meet a legal or public-health requirement.

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