PROCEDURE FOR RESPONDING TO CHILDREN WHO ARE ILL OR INFECTIOUS

Effective from: 1 September 2026 **Review date: 1 September 2027**

Purpose

This procedure sets out how Impact Wrap Around Care protects the health, safety and wellbeing of children and staff when a child is ill or may have an infectious illness. It reflects the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework for group and school-based providers in force from 1 September 2026 and current UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) guidance.

Preventing the Spread of Infection

- Good hygiene practices, including regular handwashing, are promoted and modelled to all children.
- Cleaning routines are followed daily, with additional cleaning of frequently touched surfaces, toys and equipment where needed.
- Staff follow current UKHSA health protection guidance and public health exclusion periods for children and young people settings.
- Parents/carers must keep children at home when they are too unwell to participate normally or where an exclusion period applies.
- Children with diarrhoea and/or vomiting must stay away from the setting until 48 hours after the symptoms have stopped.
- Spillages of bodily fluids are dealt with promptly using appropriate hygiene procedures and personal protective equipment where required.

Action if a Child Becomes Ill at the Setting

- The child will be moved, where practical, to a quiet and comfortable area away from other children while remaining appropriately supervised.
- A designated member of staff will monitor the child, provide reassurance and respond to any immediate care needs.
- Parents/carers will be contacted without delay and asked to collect the child where the child is too unwell to remain at the setting or where an exclusion period applies.
- The illness and action taken will be recorded where appropriate, including any first aid or medication given in accordance with the setting's separate medicines procedures.

Suspected or Confirmed Infectious Illness

- The setting will follow current UKHSA guidance on exclusion and infection control and will seek advice from the local Health Protection Team where guidance indicates this is necessary.
- Parents/carers may be informed of a confirmed infectious illness or outbreak where appropriate, while protecting the identity and confidentiality of individual children and families.
- Any required cleaning, temporary exclusion or other infection-control measures will be implemented promptly.

Serious Illness or Medical Emergency

- Staff will call 999 immediately where emergency medical assistance is required and will contact the child's parent/carer without delay.
- A member of staff will accompany the child to hospital if required and will take relevant emergency contact and medical information.
- Serious illness, serious injury, death, or other notifiable events will be recorded and reported to Ofsted and/or other relevant agencies where this is required by law or statutory guidance.

Parental Responsibilities

- Parents/carers must inform the setting of infectious illness, relevant medical information and any medication their child requires, and keep emergency contact details up to date.
- Parents/carers must follow the exclusion periods advised by UKHSA, a healthcare professional, or the setting where applicable.

Review

- This procedure will be reviewed at least annually, after any significant outbreak or incident, or sooner if statutory or public health guidance changes. Next scheduled review: 1 September 2027.