

Coronavirus

The coronavirus pandemic which began in 2019 is unprecedented and impacts our community as well as world-wide society. In Hope Nursery, we are taking precautions to minimise risk, in line with current advice, however, due to the nature of the virus and the age/understanding of our children, the risk cannot be eliminated.

Some general precautions which we may take, depending on the public health advice at the time, include:-

- Establishing "bubbles" of children, which may be classes, or smaller units
- Staggered transition arrangements including intake and daily entry/exit
- Extra health precautions, e.g. taking temperatures, requiring anyone with symptoms to remain at home
- Extra hygiene precautions, e.g. extra hand washing / sanitising, staff use of appropriate PPE, teaching and reinforcing hygiene measures, e.g. "catch it, kill it, bin it" strategy
- Extra cleaning, e.g. more frequently cleaning surfaces, high touch areas, equipment and materials
- Limiting number of people entering the building
- Requesting that any unnecessary items remain at home, e.g. children's own toys
- Changes to the equipment and activities which we provide

Pupil attendance

All parents must make staff aware of any specific difficulties or health conditions which their child / family or household members may have.

Children who are clinically vulnerable.

This will include a small number of children who have pre-existing conditions and have been advised to remain at home and stringently follow social distancing guidelines. Parents of these children should follow medical advice. A risk assessment will be undertaken in school, and it is highly likely that these children will, for their own health and safety, need to remain at home. It is widely recognised that strict social distancing cannot be guaranteed in nursery schools.

School will provide some activities for these children to complete at home.

Children who live with someone who is clinically vulnerable

If a child lives with someone who is pregnant or clinically vulnerable, but not clinically extremely vulnerable, they can attend nursery.

Children who are extremely clinically vulnerable (shielding) / living with someone who is extremely clinically vulnerable.

This will include a small number of children. Pupils with serious underlying health conditions are strongly advised to follow shielding measures to keep them safe, and not to attend schools in person. (NI re-opening schools guidance, June 2020). A risk assessment will be undertaken in school, and it is highly likely that these children will, for their own health and safety, need to remain at home. It is widely recognised that strict social distancing cannot be guaranteed in nursery schools. School will provide some activities for these children to complete at home.

Anyone with symptoms

Anyone who has any symptoms associated with COVID 19, **should NOT** attend nursery. Symptoms include :-

- High temperature/fever
- New or continuous cough
- Loss of sense of smell/taste
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Parents should not give "calpol" or similar medication to children prior to sending them to nursery. If a child requires "calpol", (or similar medication) they should remain at home.

All members of the household should follow public health guidance as regards isolation/testing and tracing. We request that parents keep school informed so that any appropriate measures to protect others can be taken. If this requires us to share information with others, every effort to maintain confidentiality will be taken. We also request that parents do not post information linked to Hope Nursery school on social media.

Protective bubbles

Staff and pupils who are part of the same protective bubble as someone who has symptoms or tests positive must follow PHA isolation guidance. All other contacts in the same protective bubble will have to self-isolate for 14 days.

Enhanced cleaning should take place in any classroom/ space where someone who has developed c 19 has been.