



GARRETTS GREEN NURSERY SCHOOL AND CHILDREN'S CENTRE



STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION IN THE EVENT OF AN INFLUENZA PANDEMIC

The World Health Organisation (WHO) have indicated that there is likely to be an influenza pandemic at some point in the future and that schools and childcare providers should have some plans in place to indicate how they will respond to such an incident.

At all times the school will respond in accordance with the advice of the Local Authority and the local health advisors. There are some key points that need to be known prior to a pandemic so that action can be taken swiftly and effectively.

It is advised that schools plan for operating in the event of a pandemic and also for the possible closure of our setting. There is evidence to show that children secrete larger quantities of the virus and for longer than adults, which can lead to a rapid spread of infection when they are together in school. For this reason the Government may advise the closure of schools during a pandemic. Closure could be localised and brief or it could be widespread and for a longer period. We would take our advice from the Local Authority.

In the event of an influenza pandemic Garretts Green Nursery School and Children's Centre will

- Ensure all staff are fully aware of the issues and key messages around a pandemic.
- Close on the advice of the Local Authority or the Government.
- Encourage parents and carers to follow the General Public Health guidance on preventing the spread of the illness
- Comply with advice on health and hygiene that safeguards the children's health and welfare within the setting
- Follow the Local Authorities advice on re-opening adhering to any conditions that apply for the health and safety of the children
- Decisions to close the setting will be made by the Headteacher in consultation with and agreement by the Governing Body. In the event of an imminent pandemic this decision may be delegated to the Headteacher.
- In the event of insufficient staff to run the school safely the Headteacher and the Governing Body may decide to close the school. This would usually be in the case where staff-child ratios were breached or where key staff (i.e. teachers/BSS) were absent.
- School will have appropriate and comprehensive hygiene systems in place to prevent the spread of illness

- School will maintain up to date contact numbers for all children and staff
- School will support staff, in line with the Local Authorities policies, where they have family members ill and need to have time to care for them
- Have a comprehensive system for informing parents on closure of school, re-opening criteria and information relating to the health and welfare of their children in the event of a pandemic
- If the school is closed to children on welfare grounds, it will remain open to staff in line with all other sector workers. Staff who are ill or think they are ill should be encouraged not to come into work whether school is open or closed
- Have arrangements in place for rapid access to medical help in the event of sudden/serious illness, including isolation contingencies if necessary
- Review the advice and information on pandemics given by the Local Authority and update this policy annually

Attached: Guidance to Schools and Children's Services on Planning for a Human Influenza Pandemic

Presented to Governors:

Signature of Chair of Governors:

Proposed Review date: