



6.0 Covid-19 policy 2021

Policy statement

From 19th July 2021 the Government has decided that children no longer need to be split into bubbles. Brambles Preschool and Out of School Club children will still be split into bubbles until the end of term. From September 2021 we will no longer be using the bubble system, following Government advice. We will still be asking that parents wear masks and drop off at the door until further notice. We will also still be taking children's temperatures at the door and keeping enhanced cleaning procedures in place.

Procedures.

To minimise the risk of infection Brambles will be putting protective measures in place and following government guidance for early years and childcare providers during the Covid-19 outbreak.

- Toys, equipment and high touch areas will be cleaned at regular intervals throughout the day.
- If a staff member or child or anyone living in the staff member's or child's household has symptoms related to COVID-19 including a new continuous cough, a high temperature or loss of taste or smell they or anyone in their household **MUST NOT** attend the setting. The member of staff or child's parent or guardian must inform the manager by phone or email and everyone in the individual's household should isolate for 10 days.
- Children who are displaying any other cold or flu symptom must stay at home until they are well or they have had a negative COVID test.
- Children should have temperatures taken at the door. If their temperature is 38 degrees or above they will not be able to attend.
- Parents must stand to metres apart on the playground while waiting to come in. Parents should drop their children at the door and not enter the building.
- Parents will be allowed in for settle in sessions and events such as parents evenings but they should be advised to wear a mask.
- Staff will sign the child in the minimise contact.
- Children and staff must wash their hands on arrival with soap and water for 20 seconds. Children must be supervised by a member of staff while washing their hands to ensure that they are washed properly.

- All windows must be opened by a staff member on arrival to provide adequate ventilation.

System of Controls

Brambles will be implementing and following a system of controls in line with government guidance.

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone including regular hand washing and the implementation of the catch it, kill it, bin it approach.
2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes. High touch areas will be cleaned twice per day and toys will be cleaned and disinfected after use.
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated. Windows will be kept open.
4. Follow public health advice of testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of Covid-19

Visitors to the setting

- When visitors do attend they should be made aware of the systems of controls and the settings policy and risk assessment regarding COVID-19.
- Visitors should sanitize their hands on arrival and be advised to wear a face covering.
- A record of all visitors to the setting must be kept.

Reduction of resources and cleaning procedures

- Water play water should be mixed with soap or washing up liquid.
- Frequently touched surfaces such as door handle, sinks, toilets, tables and chairs should be cleaned several times a day.
- Toys should be cleaned after use using disinfectant spray, wipes or water and Milton tablets.
- Cleaners should follow the guidance set out by the government on cleaning in non-health care settings.

Procedures for a suspected case of COVID-19 in the setting

- If a staff member becomes ill in the setting with symptoms they must go home immediately and self-isolate for 10 days. They must also be tested.
- If a child becomes ill at the setting they should wait in the small world area with one member of staff until the child's parent can collect them. The member of staff waiting with the child must wear PPE where available (gloves, mask and white apron).

The child must go home and follow public health advice

- If a staff member or child who has attended the setting tests positive for Covid-19 the manager should communicate with public health for advice. Close contacts that need to isolate will be informed by NHS Track and Trace.

Outbreak management plan

- In case of a local outbreak of Covid-19 the setting should go back to using the previous Covid-19 policy and risk assessment for preschool 2020.
- In the case of an internal or local outbreak the manager will seek advice from public health and follow the settings outbreak management plan.

Procedures for implementing the EYFS curriculum and supporting children's wellbeing.

- From September 2nd we will return to following the EYFS learning and development requirements in full.
- Children should be with their key person where possible.
- The daily routine should be followed and free flow between the outdoor and indoor area should be available for the majority of the day.
- Children's language and communicate skills should be supported through stories songs and small group times.
- Children should be educated in an age appropriate way on how to keep themselves safe and talk about their feelings.
- Staff should support children with activities that encourage mindfulness and positive well-being.
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Vulnerable People

- Pregnant women are classed as clinically vulnerable. If a staff member becomes pregnant then a risk assessment must be put in place.

Further guidance

- **Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus outbreak**
- **Actions for educational and childcare settings to prepare for wider opening from the 1st June**
- **Coronavirus (COVID-19):implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings**

- **Safe working in education, childcare and children's social care settings, including the use of personal protective equipment (PPE).**

This policy was adopted by	Thorns Community Trust
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	Updated 24/9/2020
	Updated again 17/12/2020
	Updated again 4/1/2021
Date to be reviewed	<hr/> May 2021 (date)
Signed on behalf of the provider	
Name of signatory	<hr/> Jonathan Wright
Role of signatory (e.g. chair, director or owner)	<hr/> Chair
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