**RISK ASSESSMENT – MINSTER LOVELL PLAYGROUP (PRE-SCHOOL) – FEBRUARY 2022**

**Summary of DFE Guidance – February 2022**

**CHANGES**

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| **Face Masks** | “no longer recommended” unless there are positive cases in Playgroup (see Outbreak Management Plan).  It is your own personal choice whether to wear a face mask or not  However, we will ask any visitors from outside of Playgroup to either wear a face mask, or prove a negative LFD test result |
| **Social distancing** | No longer required |
| **Contract tracing** | Contact tracing has ended and contacts are no longer required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests |
| **Self-isolation** | Individuals are no longer required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with Covid-19 or are a close contact of someone with Covid-19 |
| **Educational visits** | Guidance says “you should undertake a full and thorough risk assessment in relation to all educational visits and ensure that any public health advice, such as hygiene and ventilations requirements, is included as part of that risk assessment.  In other words, you can resume Playgroup outings but pick sensible venues, which comply closely with the risk assessment we will be adhering to in Playgroup. Most venues now have Covid risk assessments, which can be requested before the visit. |
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| **RISK ASSESSMENT: CONTROL MEASURES WHICH WILL CONTINUE** | |
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| **Good hygiene** | * regular handwashing/sanitising supervised by staff * “catch it, bin it, kill it” continues for sneezing * dedicated tissue bin, emptied regularly * continue to remind children to sneeze or cough into their elbow |
| **Cleaning** | Cleaning toilets and basins after each use will continue and a thorough clean after each session  Tables will be wiped down regularly, but particularly before and after snack and lunch  Shared equipment will be wiped down or washed when necessary |
| **Ventilation** | Good ventilation must be continued but keep classroom at comfortable temperature for the season |
| **Illness** | Staff and Playgroup children must stay at home while they are infectious. You should take an LFD test from 5 days after the symptoms started (or the day your test was taken if you did not have symptoms) followed by another one the next day. If both test results are negative, you can return to Playgroup as long as you feel well enough to do so and do not have a temperature. Refer to this document for further information [COVID-19: people with COVID-19 and their contacts - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts).  If your 5-day LFD test result is positive, you can continue taking LFD tests until you receive 2 consecutive negative test results. If you have cold symptoms, a raised temperature or a rash, please take an LFD test before returning to Playgroup. If the test is negative, then we still ask that your child remains at home for a minimum of 48 hours or until symptoms have ended.  If a child begins displaying a continuous cough, a high temperature, loss of taste or smell, they will be sent home and asked to take an LFD test before returning to Playgroup. We ask that you keep your child at home for a minimum of 48 hours or until symptoms have ended |
| **Staff LFD testing** | From 21st February 2022 the DFE are no longer advising regular asymptomatic testing in **most** education settings. It will be up to each individual member of Staff whether they continue to twice weekly test or not |
| **Face coverings** | We will ask any visitors from outside school to either wear a face mask, or prove a negative LFD test result |
| **Attendance** | Mandatory for all Playgroup children and staff |
| **Children who are forced to self-isolate** | Manager will maintain contact via telephone calls or emails as appropriate |
| **Parents on site** | We have made the decision to continue with our current arrangements with regard to allowing parents into Playgroup but will review this regularly. If your child is upset at being left when we will do our best to provide support and comfort to the child and encourage them to come into Playgroup. However, if after a time, they appear to be inconsolable we may ask you to step into Playgroup and provide comfort until after registration. We will then be able to provide greater support to settle your child into Playgroup and you will be able to leave. If your child finds it hard to settle, then strategies will be discussed with the Manager. |
| **Drop off and pick up** | All children will be dropped off and picked up at the same time and we will continue to use the main entrance so that children and parents are able to come into the playground. Drop off time will be 9am and pick up time if only attending the morning session will be 12 noon. Pick up time for the afternoon will be 3pm.  Any latecomers should phone Playgroup if the gate is locked or, if open, ring the doorbell located by the cloakroom door and a member of staff will come and see you.  Please note that parking is not allowed in the school car park and please respect the house owners along Wenrisc Drive when parking, do not block driveways, do not park on the zig zag lines and try and park away from the entrance/exit into Wenrisc Drive as this can cause cars to queue on to the Brize Norton Road. |
| **Travelling Abroad** | All children and staff travelling to England must adhere to government travel advice in [Travel to England from another country during coronavirus (COVID-19) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-to-england-from-another-country-during-coronavirus-covid-19) |

Please note that this Risk Assessment will be monitored regularly and updated accordingly.  
Also, this document is of a general nature and should be treated as a guide. In the event of any conflict between any applicable legislation (including the health and safety legislation) and this guidance, the applicable legislation shall prevail.

Please contact us via email at minsterlovellplaygroup@gmail,com or via Facebook.

**OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT PLAN (CONTINGENCY PLAN) – 28th February 2022**

If Central Government identify areas of local concern, Public Health England will give advice to settings on what temporary measures may be needed for a short time. This could include reintroduction of bubbles, (but this should be a last resort), wearing of face coverings etc. The scale of precautionary measures reintroduced will be appropriate to the level of risk in the setting/community, but could look similar to our previous risk assessment and could include:

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| **THEME** | **RISKS** | **WHO AT RISK** | **CONTROL MEASURES TO REDUCE RISK** |
| Insufficient staff to safely open | Children are in large groups and therefore raised infection risk | Children | * Staffing availability monitored to ensure we can safely cover staff/child ratios. * Checked to ensure sufficient first aiders on site (paediatric for Reception). * Checked that the SENCO contactable. * If staffing levels become unsustainable, then the Manager will decide to close Playgroup and notify OFSTED. Notification will be posted on the Playgroup Facebook page. All parents will receive a phone call or email as early as possible. |
| Staff absence | Staff working at home are isolated and not kept updated | Staff | * Where a stand in teacher is needed to cover absence, we will endeavour to use the same teacher for consistency and to mininmise risk. |
| Playgroup arrangements | Raised infection risks | Children/staff | * Children only bring a named water bottle and lunch box to school * Change bags allowed but need to be regularly sanitised. No keyrings to be attached. * Children will be asked to wash their hands before leaving home and will use hand sanitiser once inside Playgroup. * Regular handwashing/sanitising throughout the day |
| Children, not attending Playgroup due to isolating/  Missed education | Children falling behind | Children | * Contact will be made by the Manager as appropriate * Suggested resources to be used at home will be communicated |
| Shared toilets | Raised infection risks | Children/staff | * Toilets given a thorough clean by cleaning staff each use, after lunch and at the end of every day. * After visiting the toilet, pupils should wash their hands, this will be supervised by a member of staff. * After visiting the toilet, staff should wash their hands. |
| Break/Lunch-time | Large group of children congregating | Children/staff | * Children will eat snack/lunch in smaller groups and distance where possible. * Staff must wipe down any surfaces they touch. |
| Sharing of equipment | Raised infection risks | Children/staff | * All classroom play equipment will be regularly sanitised as necessary |
| Large group of parents at pick-up and drop off time | Groups congregating | Children/staff | * Parents will continue to drop their children off in the Playgroup playground and not come into the building at present, this will be reviewed regularly * We may ask parents asked to wear face masks if they need to come into Playgroup |
| Hygiene | Raised infection risks | Children/staff | * Regular handwashing, especially before food and after going to the toilet, supervised by a member of staff. * Children will use hand sanitiser at registration * We encourage children to wash their hands or use hand sanitiser after blowing or wiping their nose * Hand sanitiser available at all times. * Children encouraged not to touch their face, eyes and nose. Long hair should be tied back to stop children touching their face to brush it off. * Tissues should be readily available and children encouraged to “catch it, bin it, kill it.” * Dedicated tissue bin emptied regularly. * Playgroup must be ventilated. Windows **MUST** be opened in all areas every morning and doors opened if weather allows. * Tables are disinfected at lunch and after the children leave at the end of the session. |

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| Staff/Pupil bereavement | Stress | Staff/Pupil | * Staff/pupils to be supported if they suffer bereavement though Covid 19 or other:   <http://schools.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/schoolsnews/guidance-bereavement-and-loss> |
| Staff/Pupil protection | Raised infection risks | Staff/Pupils | * Staff to be given protective clothing when dealing with a sick or injured child. * Parents to be told that they must not send their child into Playgroup if they have any ailment. * Individual risk assessments carried out on vulnerable staff and pupils. |
| Staff/Pupils – suspected COVID | Potential infection risk | Staff/Pupils | * If staff/pupils develop Covid 19 symptoms, they should self-isolate immediately and follow current guidance. They will not be able to return to Playgroup until a negative LFD test result has been received for two consecutive days taken from day 5. |
| Ill child | Raised infection risks | Children/staff | * Any children, who are taken ill, will be quarantined. * Staff will need to put on PPE before treating the child. * Parent phoned and child to be sent home as soon as possible for any ailment. * Thorough cleaning of area afterwards. |
| Lateral Flow Device Testing | Reducing risk | Staff | * Staff no longer required to test twice weekly. It is up to the member of staff whether they continue to test. |
| External visitors | Raised infection risks | Children/staff | * We are still asking visitors to take an LFD test before coming into Playgroup and we will use our discretion as to whether masks will be worn * Stand in teachers are kept to a minimum and, where possible, the same teacher will be used. |
| Entry and exit routes | Congestion likely and social distancing therefore compromised | Children/staff/parents | * Any staff cars will be parked off site * Only pupils will be allowed to enter Playgroup building, but this will be reviewed regularly |
| Emergency evacuation | Fire evacuation routes changed due to one way systems | Children/staff | * Normal evacuation routes unaffected |
| Catering constraints | Children bringing items from home | Children/staff | * Children will sit and eat lunch in smaller groups where possible |