



## National Government Closure Policy

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Since 1 June, early years settings have been able to welcome back children of all ages. Since 20 July, early years settings have no longer been required to keep children in small, consistent groups within settings but can return to normal group sizes. Returning to normal group sizes is based on the fact that the overall risk to children from coronavirus (COVID-19) is low.

If we have 2 or more confirmed cases within 14 days, or an overall rise in sickness absence where coronavirus (COVID-19) is suspected, the Nursery may have an outbreak, and we will work with our local health protection team who will be able to advise if additional action is required.

In some cases, health protection teams may recommend that a larger number of other children self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure – perhaps the whole site or a group. Horspath Nursery are implementing the controls and addressing the risks and therefore reducing transmission risks, whole setting closure based on cases within the setting will not generally be necessary, and should not be considered except on the advice of health protection teams. However, the Nursery may need to close at short notice due to staff members being required to self-isolate.

All children, parents and staff must adhere to all National/Local Lockdown restrictions. These have been put in place to help to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Failure to do this could result in all involved with the Nursery having to self-isolate for up to 14 days. The up to date restrictions can be found on the Government website.

Any confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) in the setting (either child or staff member), and/or if the setting is advised to close as a result, will be reported to Ofsted through the usual notification channels.

If a local area sees a spike in infection rates that results in localised community spread, appropriate authorities will decide which measures to implement to help contain the spread. DfE will be involved in decisions at a local and national level and will support appropriate authorities and individual settings to follow the health advice.

Local authorities should work with settings which are closed to identify alternative provision for children who need places. Parents and carers can also approach local authorities if their usual provider is not open. If a child moves settings, important information should be provided by the parent or carer to the new setting on day one, including emergency contact details, dietary requirements and medical needs to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the child.

In the case of vulnerable children, the closed setting should notify the local authority (and social worker, where relevant) that these vulnerable children need alternative provision. The closed setting should work with the families of vulnerable children and local authorities (and social workers, where relevant) to support this.

Where a setting has closed, and a vulnerable child moves to a different early years setting:

- the closed provider should do whatever it reasonably can to provide the receiving setting with any relevant welfare and child protection information
- the receiving setting should be aware of the reason the child is vulnerable and any arrangements in place to support them. As a minimum, the receiving setting should, as appropriate, have access to a vulnerable child’s EHC plan, child in need plan, child protection plan or, for looked-after children, their personal education plan, and know who the child’s social worker is (and, for looked-after children, know who the responsible virtual school head is)
- the transfer of necessary information should ideally happen before a child arrives at the new setting and, where that is not possible, as soon as reasonably practicable. Any exchanges of information will ideally happen between the designated safeguarding leads (or deputies), and between special educational needs co-ordinators (SENCOs) or named individual with oversight of special educational needs provision for children with EHC plans

While providers must continue to have appropriate regard to data protection and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), this does not prevent the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children safe.

If the Government require the Nursery to close due to unforeseen circumstances, this will be put in place as soon as possible following Government guidance.

Signed on behalf of the Management Committee:

..... Chairperson

This policy was updated by the Manager and staff and will be updated annually.  
Next due to be updated: September 2021

“Horspath Nursery is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, families and staff at all times.”