12. Illness Policy

Young children developing their immune system are susceptible to illness. Many of these are minor ailments and the children often attend all their usual activities including pre-school. At St Peter's Pre-School we will monitor any illness identified by parents and inform them of any situation that may arise during a session. The severity will affect the urgency of reporting.

If you have any concerns about your child- being unwell/cold/cough, you must inform the Supervisor before the start of the session.

- Parents are asked to keep their children at home if they have any infection, and to inform the pre-school as to the nature of the infection. This will allow the pre-school to alert other parents as necessary and to make careful observations of any child who seems unwell. Parents are asked not to send their child to pre-school if they are unwell; if a child appears unwell as they enter pre-school the parent or carer may be asked to take the child home. The supervisor will assess the situation and make a judgement as to whether the child is deemed well enough for pre-school.

- If a child should become ill at pre-school, we will contact the parent. If the parent should not be contactable, then we will telephone the emergency contact number for your child to be collected. If no one can be reached we will assess the child's condition and if the condition is serious seek medical assistance. In the meantime, the child is to be nursed and comforted in a quiet area by a member of staff until the parent/ emergency contact arrives. If a child appears to be out of character and is suspected of becoming unwell the parents or emergency contact will be telephoned and asked to collect the child from pre-school. If during a session a child has a temperature of above 37 degrees, the parents or emergency contact will be telephoned and asked to collect the child from pre-school.

- Parents are asked not to bring into the pre-school any child who has been vomiting or had diarrhoea until at least 48 hours has elapsed since the last attack. If a child vomits and/or is witnessed to have diarrhoea during a session, the parents or emergency contact will be telephoned and asked to collect the child.

- If the children of pre-school staff are unwell, the children will not accompany their parents/carers to work in the pre-school.

- Cuts or open sores, whether on adults or children, will be covered with sticking plaster or other dressing.

- A care plan devised by a healthcare professional will be held for any child with a diagnosed allergy. This must include the diagnosis and the advised treatment in detail.

- Any parent who wishes the preschool to hold antihistamines for their child or any kind of medication must provide official paperwork giving thorough details of the allergy/ condition that they wish their child to be treated for. It should be clear what steps the preschool should take and under which circumstances.

- If a child is on prescribed medication, the following procedures will be followed:
  a. Written information will be obtained from the prescribed medication giving clear instructions about the dosage.

  b. A medication form will be completed by the parent giving consent for a member of staff to administer the medication. Administration of medication will be witnessed by two staff members, the parent will be asked to sign in recognition of administration of said medication. This information will be recorded and kept on file.

  c. All medicines will be kept in a safe place, out of reach of children.

- The committee nominated Health and Safety Officer will ensure that the first aid equipment is kept clean, replenished and replaced when necessary. Sterile items will be kept sealed in their packages until needed.

- There will always be at least one qualified paediatric first aider on the premises, trained to administer first aid to children.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of the Pre-school held on:…………………….. (Date)

Signed on behalf of the Pre-school: ……………………………………………. (Chairperson)