Temporary additions to Willow Nursery School’s Behaviour Policy during the Coronavirus Covid-19 pandemic. 3rd June 2020 onwards.

Behaviour policies require additional strategies to be put in place, and considerations to be made, to ensure schools operate in a safe and organised manner during the Coronavirus Covid 19 pandemic. Due to the very young age of our pupils, some of these changes in behaviour will have to be expected of parents and carers, to ensure a Covid secure environment is created.

* Altered routines for arrival or departure.

Staff have created a timetable which builds in staggered arrival and departure times for each of the four groups of children accessing the school. Arrival and departure times for each group (of up to 13 children) are staggered by 10 minutes.

The parents will form a queue outside the school gate. Parents will arrive preferably on time, or if not, within 5 minutes of their child’s allotted drop off or collection time. If a family is late to arrive their child will not be admitted, as the only person to have close contact with their child will be taking the register in their child’s classroom.

* Moving around the school.

On arrival and departure children will leave their parent and walk through the side gate to our rear playground area to access their classroom. All classroom spaces can be accessed directly from the outdoor area.

Children will not use the internal school corridor to move around school.

Some areas of the outdoor area will be designated as out of bounds. Children will not be able to access the fixed play equipment, as it cannot be cleaned between being used by two different groups of children.

* Sneezing, coughing, tissues and disposal (‘catch it, bin it, kill it’)

Children will be taught that wherever possible they should sneeze or cough into a tissue, or into a crooked elbow. Tissues should then be disposed of in a lidded bin. Children should then wash their hands for 20 seconds using soap and water. Staff will teach children about the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ routine. Children will be taught to recognise the icons to describe this routine.

* Avoiding touching your mouth, nose and eyes with hands.

Children should avoid touching their faces with their hands. Staff will teach children about how this spreads germs.

* Drinking bottles.

We have water fountains in each room, but these should not be used during the Coronavirus pandemic. All children need access to water throughout the session. All children will bring a water bottle to school to be stored in the child’s classroom. Children will be taught to use only their water bottle.

* Sharing equipment.

Staff have spent considerable time risk assessing toys and equipment within the setting. Adults in school will manage all toys and equipment that children will have access to, ensuring it is used safely. This equipment will be cleaned regularly throughout the day. Staff will explain to children about what toys can be shared and what should be played with alone. Children will listen and abide by the instructions given by staff.

* Amended expectations about breaks or play times.

For the majority of the day, children at Willow usually have the choice to move freely and independently between the inside and outside areas. This is known as free flow play. During the Coronavirus pandemic children need to be kept in small, regular, family style groups, or ‘bubbles’.

Children will have allocated playtimes for their bubble. For the majority of children this will be a 30 minute period where their bubble has exclusive use of the outdoor area.

* Use of toilets

We have bathroom areas in each of the ‘bubbles’. Children will only use the toilets in their ‘bubble.’

* Spitting at, or biting any other person.

These behaviours will not be tolerated at school. Children will be explicitly told that children must not bite, or spit at anyone else. We will telephone parents to collect their child if their child spits at, or bites any other person.

* Handwashing and sanitising.

Children will follow a regular routine of handwashing. Children will wash their hands on arrival. They will wash hands when they start or finish a task. They will wash hands before and after going outside. They will wash hands before and after snack time. They will wash hands before going home. Children will wash their hands after using a tissue, and if necessary, after coughing or sneezing.

Sanitiser is available in all classrooms.

Temporary additions to Willow Nursery School’s Safeguarding Policy

During the Coronavirus Covid 19 pandemic. 4th June onwards.

Schools are required to update their Safeguarding policy at this time, reflecting on the situation of more children returning to school as part of the wider reopening of schools from the 1st June.

This document should be used as a temporary addition to our full Safeguarding Policy.

Our Safeguarding Policy was completely revised and written in a Local Authority suggested format in Autumn 2019. As such it is very comprehensive.

The information and procedures in our policy will still be effective. Our school is operating differently during this time, to meet the requirements of creating a covid secure environment following guidelines published by the government.

Some organisational arrangements have changed. A similar temporary Behaviour policy addition has been written. Please read the behaviour document as it includes some detail about how we are keeping children safe with regard to systems being put in place to control infection. We have introduced staggered arrival and departure times, and children enter the school grounds without parents, so we have implemented procedures to keep them safe whilst accessing their classrooms. We have introduced a number of measures to keep children safe from the risks associated with being in school during a covid-19 pandemic. We have looked at equipment use, daily routines and the need to keep children in ‘bubbles’.

These changes will affect how staff work in school. For example, staff are now likely to be working as 1 adult in a room with a group of children. Staff must still consult with the Designated Safeguarding Lead as quickly as possible if they have a concern about a child. Staff may need to gain other staff members attention in order to alert the Designated Safeguarding Lead to attend in a specific bubble.

Children are returning after an extended period at home, and staff should be aware that there may be a rise in the level of safeguarding concerns raised at this time.

We may find other safeguarding challenges will arise during this ongoing pandemic. Staff will discuss issues, devise solutions and share with all staff as we go along.