

ASHENGROUND COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL



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Southdown Close
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Effective infection protection and control/Covid-19 Risk Assessment

In all education, childcare and social care settings, preventing the spread of coronavirus involves dealing with direct transmission (for instance, when in close contact with those sneezing and coughing) and indirect transmission (via touching contaminated surfaces).

Prevention of spreading/Self protection:

- cleaning hands more often than usual - wash hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly
- use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered (for adults only)
- minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend childcare settings
- ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- cleaning frequently touched surfaces often using standard products, such as detergents and bleach
- minimising contact and mixing by altering, as much as possible, the environment (such as classroom layout)

Personal protective equipment (PPE) including face coverings and face masks

Wearing a face covering or face mask in education settings is not recommended. Changing habits, cleaning and hygiene are effective measures in controlling the spread of the virus.

The majority of staff in education settings will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work, even if they are not always able to maintain a distance of 2 metres from others. PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases including:

- children, young people and students whose care routinely already involves the use of PPE due to their intimate care needs should continue to receive their care in the same way

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- if a child, young person or other learner becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in their setting and needs direct personal care until they can return home. A fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. If contact with the child or young person is necessary, then disposable gloves, a disposable apron and a fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult.
- If a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, for example from coughing, spitting, or vomiting, then eye protection should also be worn

Shielded and clinically vulnerable children and young people

For the vast majority of children and young people, coronavirus is a mild illness. Children and young people (0 to 18 years of age) who have been classed as clinically extremely vulnerable due to pre-existing medical conditions have been advised to shield. We do not expect these children to be attending preschool and they should continue to be supported at home as much as possible. Clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable) people are those considered to be at a higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus. A small minority of children will fall into this category, and parents should follow medical advice if their child is in this category.

Class or group sizes

Early years age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff.

Ashenground Community Preschool will work through the hierarchy of measures set out:

- avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms
- frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices
- regular cleaning of settings
- minimising contact and mixing

Public Health England (PHE)

is clear that if early years settings do this, and crucially if they are also applying regular hand cleaning, hygiene and cleaning measures and handling potential cases of the virus as per the advice, then the risk of transmission will be lowered.

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Cleaning and hygiene:

- ensure that sufficient handwashing facilities are available. Where a sink is not nearby, provide hand sanitiser in classrooms and other learning environments
- clean surfaces that children and young people are touching, such as toys, books, desks, chairs, doors, sinks, toilets, light switches, bannisters - clean daily, throughout the session

Ensure that all adults and children:

- frequently wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds and dry thoroughly.
- clean their hands on arrival at the setting, before and after eating, and after sneezing or coughing
- are encouraged not to touch their mouth, eyes and nose
- use a tissue or elbow to cough or sneeze and use bins for tissue waste ('catch it, bin it, kill it')
- ensure that help is available for children and young people who have trouble cleaning their hands independently
- consider how to encourage young children to learn and practise these habits through games, songs and repetition
- ensure that bins for tissues are emptied throughout the day
- where possible, all spaces should be well ventilated using natural ventilation (opening windows) or ventilation units
- prop doors open, where safe to do so (bearing in mind fire safety and safeguarding), to limit use of door handles and aid ventilation
- get in touch with public sector buying organisation partners (for example ESPO, YPO, NEPO) about proportionate supplies of soap, anti-bacterial gel and cleaning products if needed
- We are a part of the asymptomatic testing programme. All staff and volunteers are tested twice weekly.
- No visitors are allowed during the lockdown period
- If it is necessary for someone to enter the preschool setting during the covid-19 pandemic, e.g. professionals, parents, the wearing of the face covering/mask is required

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What happens if someone becomes unwell at an educational or childcare setting?

If anyone in an childcare setting becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they must be sent home and advised to follow the COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance.

If a child is awaiting collection, they will be moved, if possible, to a room where they will be isolated behind a closed door, depending on the age of the child and with appropriate adult supervision. Windows will be opened for ventilation. If it is not possible to isolate them, the child/children will be moved to an area which is at least 2 metres away from others.

If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they will use a separate bathroom. The bathroom will be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else.

PPE should be worn by staff caring for the child while they await collection if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained (such as for a very young child or a child with complex needs).

In an emergency, we will call 999 if they are seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk.

If a member of staff has helped someone with symptoms, they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves (and in which case, testing will be requested). They need to wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell. Cleaning the affected area with normal household disinfectant after someone with symptoms has left will reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people.

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What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in a setting?

When a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days.

Testing - Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of the group within their childcare setting will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days.

Ashenground Community Preschool will carry out a daily risk assessment and a hygiene risk assessment before the children enter the setting each morning. A deep clean of all the equipment used, will be cleaned before, during and after each session. The daily risk assessment will be reviewed continuously.