GEMS TINEY HOME NURSERY

HOME FROM HOME CHILDCARE

Infection Control and Hygiene Policy

Policy Statement

At Gems tiney Home Nursery, we are committed to providing a clean, safe, and hygienic environment that helps prevent the spread of infection and protects the health of all children, staff, and families. This policy outlines the measures we take to promote good hygiene and to manage illness effectively within the setting.

Hand Hygiene

Everyone in the setting - staff, children, and visitors are encouraged and supported to follow proper handwashing routines.

Hands are washed thoroughly with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds:

Before eating or handling food

After using the toilet or changing nappies

After playing outside

After wiping noses, coughing, or sneezing

After contact with bodily fluids or cleaning tasks

Hand sanitiser may be used when soap and water are not immediately available.

Respiratory Hygiene

Children and staff are encouraged to cover their mouths and noses with a tissue or elbow when sneezing or coughing.

Tissues are disposed of immediately in covered bins, and hands are washed straight afterwards.

Bins are emptied and disinfected regularly.

Cleaning and Sanitisation

The setting is cleaned thoroughly every day, with frequent cleaning of high-touch areas such as door handles, tables, toys, and toilets.

Toys and resources are cleaned and sanitised regularly, and immediately if they have been mouthed or contaminated.

Cleaning products are stored safely, out of children's reach, and used according to manufacturer guidelines.

Disposable gloves and aprons are worn for cleaning, nappy changing, or handling bodily fluids.

Illness and Exclusion

Children must be well enough to take part comfortably in the usual daily routine. Children who are unwell, or who require care that cannot safely be provided alongside the needs of the other children, must remain at home.

Parents must inform the childminder if their child is ill or has been in contact with an infectious disease.

Children must stay at home in the following circumstances:

A temperature of 38°C (100.4°F) or above

Diarrhoea or vomiting: children must remain at home for at least 48 hours after the last episode. Once this period has passed and they are well enough, they may return only at the start of their next usual booked session, not partway through the day. Any longer exclusion period advised for a specific infection must also be followed.

An infection requiring exclusion, such as chickenpox or impetigo: the current UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) exclusion guidance and any specific advice from the local health protection team will be followed. Children with respiratory infections, including COVID-19, must stay at home if they have more than mild symptoms, such as a high temperature.

If a child becomes unwell while at the setting, parents will be contacted immediately to arrange collection.

The child will be cared for in a comfortable, supervised space away from others until collected.

Staff and the childminder must also follow the relevant illness exclusion periods. If the childminder is too unwell to provide safe care or maintain appropriate hygiene, the setting may need to close temporarily. Parents will be informed as soon as possible, and fees will be handled in accordance with the Fees Policy.

Conjunctivitis does not normally require exclusion, and antibiotic treatment is not a condition of attendance. Parents should seek advice from a pharmacist or doctor.

We recognise that babies and young children cannot reliably avoid touching or rubbing their eyes before touching toys, shared surfaces or other children. Where eye discharge is repeatedly transferred in this way, despite appropriate cleaning, handwashing and supervision, parents may be asked to keep their child at home or arrange collection if the spread cannot be safely managed within the setting.

The childminder will use professional judgement, taking account of current public health guidance, the child's wellbeing and the needs of the other children attending. Children may return when they are well enough and their symptoms can be safely managed. There is no fixed exclusion period for conjunctivitis.

Infection Control During Outbreaks

In the event of an outbreak of an infectious illness, enhanced cleaning measures will be introduced.

Parents and relevant authorities (including Ofsted and the local health protection team) will be informed as appropriate.

Any child or staff member diagnosed with a notifiable disease will be reported to the relevant health authority in line with statutory requirements.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Disposable gloves and aprons are worn during all nappy changes, cleaning of bodily fluids, or handling of soiled items.

PPE is disposed of safely after each use.

Handwashing is carried out immediately after PPE removal.

Food Hygiene and Safety

Food preparation follows strict hygiene standards in accordance with our Food Safety Policy.

Staff wash hands before and after handling food, and surfaces are cleaned and sanitised before preparation.

Cross-contamination is prevented by using colour-coded utensils and separate areas for raw and cooked food.

Communication with Parents

Parents are kept informed about hygiene and illness control procedures through newsletters and daily communication.

Parents are expected to update the childminder on any health concerns or exposure to infectious conditions.

The nursery works closely with families to encourage consistent hygiene practices at home and in the setting.

Health Records

Each child's health information, including allergies, immunisations, and any ongoing medical conditions, is kept up to date and stored securely.

Any health-related incidents are recorded and reviewed as part of our monitoring process.

Review and Monitoring

This policy will be reviewed annually, or sooner if required, in response to public health guidance or local authority updates.
Feedback from parents, staff, and health professionals is welcomed to continuously improve our infection control practices.

Signed: Gemma Bayley
Date: October 2026

Reviewed: October 2026 | Next review due: October 2027