**ALLERGIES AND INFECTIONS POLICY.**

Cowling Preschool promotes the good health of children, and takes necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection, and take appropriate action when children are ill.

**Policy Statement.**

We provide care for healthy children and promote health through identifying allergies and preventing contact with the allergenic substance and through preventing cross infection of viruses and bacterial infections.

**Procedures.**

Allergies.

* When parents start at the setting they are asked if their child suffers from any known allergies. This is recorded on the registration form.
* If a child has an allergy, a risk assessment should be completed to detail the following:
  + The allergen (i.e. the substance, material or living creature the child is allergic to.)
  + The nature of the allergic reaction.
  + What to do in case of allergic reactions, any medications used and how it is to be used.
  + Control measures – such as how the child can be prevented from the allergen.
* This form is kept in the child’s personal file and a copy is displayed where staff can see it.
* Parents train staff in how to administer special medication in the event of an allergic reaction.
* Generally, no nuts or nut products are used within the setting but we cannot guarantee any foods to be nut free.

Oral Medication.

* Oral medications must be prescribed by a G.P. and have manufacturer’s instructions clearly written on them.
* We must be provided with clear written instructions on how to administer such medication.
* All risk assessment procedures must be adhered to for the correct storage and administration of the medication.
* We must have the parent’s or guardian’s prior written consent to administer medication, the consent must be kept on file.

Life saving medication and invasive treatments.

For all adrenaline injections (Epipens) for anaphylactic shock reactions, or invasive treatments such as rectal administration of Diazepam (for epilepsy) the setting must have:

* A letter from the child’s G.P./consultant stating the child’s condition and what medication if any is to be administered.
* Written consent from the parent or guardian allowing staff to administer medication.
* Proof of training in the administration of such medication by the child’s G.P., a district nurse, child’s nurse specialist or a community paediatric nurse.

Special Health Needs.

For any children requiring help with tubes to help them with everyday living e.g. breathing apparatus, to take nourishment, colostomy bags etc. we must have:

* Prior written consent from the child’s parent or guardian to give treatment and/or medication prescribed by the child’s G.P.
* The key worker should have the relevant medical training/experience, which may include those who have received appropriate instructions from parents or guardians, or who have qualifications.

Procedures for children who are sick or infectious.

* If a child becomes unwell during the day the manager calls the parents and asks them to collect the child, or send a known carer to collect on their behalf.
* If a child has a temperature, they are kept cool, by removing top clothing, sponging their heads with cool water, but kept away from draughts.
* Temperatures are taken using a ‘fever scan’ kept with the first aid box.
* In extreme cases the child should be taken to the nearest hospital and the parent informed.
* Parents may be asked to take their child to the Doctor before returning them to preschool. If the child appears unwell we may refuse admission.
* Where a child has been prescribed antibiotics, parents are asked to keep the child at home for 48 hours before returning to preschool.
* After vomiting or diarrhoea, parents are asked to keep the child at home for 48 hours after vomiting has ceased or a formed stool has passed, before returning to preschool.
* The preschool has a list of excludable diseases and current exclusion times of common childhood illnesses such as measles.

Reporting of ‘notifiable disease’.

* If a child is suffering from a notifiable disease under the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1988, the G.P. should report this to the Health Protection Agency.
* When the preschool becomes aware, or is formally informed of the notifiable disease, the manager informs Ofsted and acts on any advice given by the Health Protection Agency.

HIV/AIDS/Hepatitis.

* HIV virus, like other viruses such as Hepatitis are spread through the bodily fluids. Hygiene precautions for dealing with bodily fluids are the same for children and adults.
* Single use vinyl gloves and aprons are worn when changing children’s nappies, pants and clothing that is soiled with blood, urine, faeces or vomit.
* Protective rubber gloves are used for cleaning/sluicing clothing after changing.
* Soiled clothing is rinsed and bagged for parents to collect.
* Spills of blood, urine, faeces or vomit are cleared using disinfectant solution and any cloths used are disposed of with the clinical waste.
* Tables and other furniture, furnishings or toys affected are cleaned using a disinfectant.

**This policy was adopted on .………………………………….......**

**Date to be reviewed ...…………………………………….**

**Signed on behalf of the management committee …………………………………………**

**Name of signatory …………………………………………**

**Role of signatory (e.g. Chair/owner) …………………………………………**