

# Little VIPs Sickness and Illness Policy



LOWTHER ENDOWED SCHOOL  
& LITTLE VIPs DAY CARE



## Policy Statement

At Little VIPs Day Care we are committed to promoting the good health, wellbeing and safety of all children in our care. We recognise that managing illness effectively is essential to prevent the spread of infection and to ensure children receive appropriate care when they are unwell.

We aim to provide a safe and healthy environment by implementing clear procedures for responding to illness, working in partnership with parents, and following guidance from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS 2025) and public health authorities.

This policy applies to children, staff and visitors and supports our duty to minimise the spread of infection within the setting.

## Promoting Good Health

At Little VIPs we actively promote children's health and wellbeing by encouraging parents to keep children at home if they are unwell, ensuring staff and visitors do not attend if they are infectious, and maintaining a clean and hygienic environment.

We support children's health through balanced and nutritious meals, regular outdoor play, good ventilation, and access to rest and sleep. We also share information with parents about immunisations, oral health and general wellbeing, including current public health guidance.

## Managing Illness in the Setting

If a child becomes unwell whilst at nursery, we will contact parents or carers immediately and request that the child is collected as soon as possible. During this time, the child will be cared for in a calm and comfortable area, supervised by a familiar member of staff, and appropriate infection control measures, including the use of personal protective equipment (PPE), will be followed where necessary.

The nursery reserves the right to refuse admission to any child who is unwell. This decision will be made by the manager or senior member of staff and is final, in order to protect the health of all children and staff.

## Infection Control and Exclusion Periods

We follow current guidance from the UK Health Security Agency regarding exclusion periods for infectious illnesses. Children who have experienced sickness and diarrhoea must remain at home for at least 48 hours after the last episode.

Where a contagious illness is identified within the setting, we will inform parents so they can monitor their child for symptoms. We will also ensure that all equipment, resources and areas are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected to minimise the spread of infection.

Children who are prescribed antibiotics are required to remain at home for the first 48 hours of the course, unless this forms part of an ongoing medical condition and the child is otherwise well. This allows time to monitor for any adverse reactions and supports the child's recovery.

## Specific Illnesses and Notifiable Diseases

In the event of a serious or notifiable illness, such as meningitis, we will follow guidance from relevant health professionals, including the local Health Protection Team. We will take all necessary steps to protect children and staff, including informing parents and relevant authorities where required.

We will notify Ofsted of any food poisoning affecting two or more children within the required timescale and will comply with all reporting requirements.

## Emergency Procedures

If a child becomes seriously ill or requires urgent medical attention, staff will act immediately to ensure the child's safety. An ambulance will be called where necessary, and staff will follow the guidance of emergency services.

Parents will be contacted without delay, and a member of staff will accompany the child to hospital if required, taking all relevant information, including medical records and medication. The nursery will ensure that staffing levels remain appropriate to care for the remaining children.

Staff will remain calm and provide reassurance to all children, recognising that such situations can be distressing.

## Head Lice

We recognise that head lice are a common occurrence in early years settings. We ask parents to check their child's hair regularly and inform the nursery if head lice are identified so that other parents can be alerted. Children may attend once treatment has begun.

## Partnership with Parents

We work closely with parents to ensure children's health needs are understood and managed effectively. Parents are responsible for informing the nursery of any illness, symptoms or medication their child has received prior to attending.

We will share information about illnesses within the setting, provide guidance where appropriate, and support families in managing their child's health.

## Staff Health

Staff must not attend work if they are unwell or infectious. They have a responsibility to ensure they are fit to work and able to meet the needs of the children in their care. Management will support staff in maintaining a healthy working environment.

## Recording and Monitoring

All illnesses, symptoms and actions taken will be recorded appropriately. We monitor patterns of illness within the setting to identify any potential outbreaks and take action where necessary.

## Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if there are changes to legislation or public health guidance. Practice will be monitored through regular checks, staff meetings and reflective practice.

<b>This policy was adopted on</b>	<b>Signed on behalf of the nursery</b>	<b>Date for review</b>
April 2026	Hayley Fassam – Nursery Manager	April 2027