



Ballygawley Early Years Playgroup

Sickness Exclusion Policy

This policy sets out the exclusion periods from Playgroup for children who are ill, including if they are infectious. Ballygawley Early Years Playgroup takes into consideration guidance from the Public Health Agency with regards to exclusion periods for illnesses and infection control, as well as the needs of the children and staff.

Procedures

Children who are ill

Prior to the commencement of the Playgroup year, all children will complete the Registration Form which gives details of their Doctor's name and Doctor's Contact details. The registration form will also include details of the child's relevant medical history.

It is at the Leader's discretion whether or not to allow a child into Playgroup if they are showing signs of illness, even if there is no exclusion period or if this is after any exclusion period has passed, or if a doctor has stated that they are not infectious. The Leader will need to take into account the demeanour of the child and whether they are well enough to participate in Playgroup activities. They must also consider whether allowing a sick child in Playgroup would affect the staff to child ratios, as children who are unwell may require continual one to one attention. If we allow a child showing signs of illness or who has recently recovered from an illness into Playgroup, then we will monitor them regularly and will contact parents/guardians to ask that they are collected if they become unwell again.

Illness Outbreaks

If there is an outbreak of an illness in Playgroup then the Leader will consult with the local Public Health Agency office for advice. We may decide to exclude children in order to control an outbreak where this is not listed in our normal exclusion policy.



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Infectious Illness Reporting

If a child has an illness we would request that the parents/guardians contact the Playgroup as soon as possible so we can communicate this to all staff and parents/guardians, as well as the Public Health Agency if it is a notifiable disease. This is particularly important in case a child has come into contact with a pregnant staff member or parent/guardian.

We provide a list of illness/infections but please note this list is not exhaustive but contains the most common exclusions.* = Notifiable diseases

Illness/Infection	Exclusion Period for children
Athlete's Foot	None
Chicken Pox*	Until all vesicles have crusted over
Cold Sores (Herpes simplex)	None
Conjunctivitis	None (If there is an outbreak we will consider exclusion)
Cryptosporidiosis*	48 hours from the last episode of diarrhoea
Diarrhoea and/or Vomiting Including Rotavirus/Norovirus/Gastroenteritis	48 hours from the last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting
Diphtheria*	Exclusion essential under cleared by Public Health Agency / Health Protection Duty Room
E Coli 0157 VTEC*	48 hours from last episode of diarrhoea. Guided by Public Health Agency / Health Protection Duty Room as further exclusion maybe required.
Flu (influenza)	Until recovered fully enough to participate in nursery activities
German Measles (Rubella)*	4 days from onset of rash
Glandular Fever	None, however must be well enough to participate in nursery activities
Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease	None.
Head Lice	None. Treatment recommended only in cases where live lice have been seen.
Hepatitis A*	Exclude until 7 days after onset of jaundice (or 7 days after symptom onset if no jaundice). Guided by Public Health Agency / Health Protection Duty Room



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Hepatitis B*, C, HIV /AIDS	None
Impetigo	Until lesions are crusted or healed, or 48 hours after commencing antibiotic treatment
Measles*	4 days from onset of rash
Molluscum contagiosum	None
Meningococcal meningitis */ Septicaemia*	Until recovered (We will follow the instructions of Health Protection Agency/ Public Health Office)
Meningitis* due to other bacteria	Until recovered. Guided by Public Health Agency / Health Protection Duty Room
Meningitis viral*	None
MRSA	None
Mumps*	5 days from onset of swelling
Ringworm	Exclusion not usually required
Roseola (infantum)	None
Scabies	Return after first treatment
Scarlet Fever*	24hours after commencing appropriate antibiotic treatment
Shigella* (dysentery)	48 hours from last episode of diarrhoea. Guided by Public Health Agency / Health Protection Duty Room
Shingles	Exclude only if rash is weeping and cannot be covered
Slapped cheek (fifth disease or parvovirus B19)	None, however must be well enough to participate in nursery activities
Threadworm	None
Tonsillitis	None
Tuberculosis*	Exclusion essential under cleared by Public Health Agency / Health Protection Duty Room
Typhoid* (and paratyphoid*) (enteric fever)	48 hours from last episode of diarrhoea
Warts and verrucae	None
Whooping cough* (pertussis)	48hours from commencing antibiotic treatment, or 21 days from onset of illness if no antibiotic treatment

Parents should always seek advice from their GP or Accident and Emergency Department regarding the specific symptoms of their child.



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This policy was adapted at a meeting of our playgroup held on the 1st September 2026

Monitoring

This policy will be reviewed annually by the management team to ensure it remains fit for purpose.

This policy was reviewed by the Ballygawley Early Years Management Committee on:

Date: 01/09/2026

Signed:
(on behalf of the Management Committee)

Name and Position: Iona Devine, Chairperson

Reviewed on:

Date: Signed:..... Position:.....

Date: Signed:..... Position:.....

Date: Signed:..... Position:.....

This policy links with the following policies;

- Safeguarding Children and Child Protection policy
- Infection Prevention & Control policy
- Management of Medicines policy
- First Aid policy
- Emergency Plan policy