

Infection Control Policy



Approved by:	Trust Safeguarding Lead	Date: April 2026
Last reviewed in:	New Policy	
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DOCUMENT CONTROL

Changes History

Issue No	Date	Amended by	Summary of Changes
1	April 2026	Jemma Lynch, Trust Safeguarding Lead Karen Davies & Laurel Parry, Nursery Managers	New Policy

Authorisation (Responsible Owner)

Name	Role	Approval Date
Karen Davies	Nursery Manager - Chalkstone	1 April 2026
Laurel Parry	Nursery Manager – Norton	1 April 2026

Distribution List – Once authorised (Informed)

Name	
Nursery Managers and Deputy Managers	For uploading to Famly and distributing to parents and carers
Dave Gooderam	For uploading to the Nursery websites

Review Period

Date Document Reviewed	By Whom
April 2028	Nursery Managers

1. Policy Statement

At Unity Stars Nursery, we are committed to promoting the health, safety and wellbeing of all children, families, staff and visitors. Maintaining high standards of hygiene is central to our practice and helps us to minimise the spread of infectious diseases. This policy outlines how we implement effective infection prevention and control procedures in line with the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) guidance Health protection in children and young people settings (2024), the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework (2025), and local guidance from Suffolk County Council Public Health.

Our approach is also underpinned by the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations 2002, and the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984. Together, these frameworks ensure that we provide a clean, safe and nurturing environment that supports children's wellbeing and development.

1. Promoting a Healthy Environment

Preventing infection begins with everyday good practice. Staff at Unity Stars Nursery consistently promote and model excellent hygiene habits, supporting children to understand why these routines help to keep them and others healthy. Children are encouraged to wash their hands thoroughly for at least 20 seconds before eating, after using the toilet, after outdoor play, and after any coughing or sneezing. Handwashing is taught in a child-friendly, positive way and reinforced throughout the day.

We promote the *"catch it, bin it, kill it"* approach to managing coughs and sneezes, with tissues readily available in every room and child-accessible disposal bins. Hands are always washed after tissue use, and staff support children's independence in these routines. Visual reminders and role modelling are used to help even our youngest children understand the importance of good hygiene.

Staff wear the appropriate **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**—including disposable gloves and aprons—whenever they change nappies, provide intimate care, or deal with bodily fluids. All PPE is disposed of safely and immediately after use, followed by thorough handwashing. Cleaning materials and PPE are stored safely and replenished regularly to ensure they are always available when needed.

2. Cleaning and Hygiene Standards

The nursery environment is cleaned thoroughly and systematically. Toilets, changing areas and handwashing facilities are cleaned at least daily and checked frequently throughout the day. Changing mats and potties are cleaned and disinfected after every use. All toys and play equipment are included in a cleaning rota: hard toys are disinfected regularly, while soft furnishings and textiles are washed frequently to prevent bacteria build-up.

Any items placed in a child's mouth—such as teethingers, bottles or dummies—are immediately cleaned and sterilised before reuse. Each child has their own labelled dummy or bottle box to prevent cross-contamination. Similarly, toothbrushes used for oral health promotion are stored individually and hygienically.

To maintain the highest standards, the nursery carries out a **deep clean** of every room and soft furnishing approximately every six weeks, or sooner if required—for example, following an outbreak or increased illness in the setting. All cleaning procedures follow guidance issued by UKHSA and Suffolk Public Health, and records are kept to evidence compliance.

3. Managing Illness and Exclusion

Unity Stars Nursery follows the exclusion guidance published by the **UK Health Security Agency**, which sets out how long children and staff must remain away from the setting when unwell or

infectious. Parents and carers are expected to keep children at home if they are showing symptoms of illness and to inform the nursery immediately of any confirmed diagnosis.

Where a child becomes unwell during the day, staff will care for them in a calm, reassuring way while minimising the risk of spreading infection to others. Parents or carers will be contacted to collect their child as soon as possible.

The Nursery Manager reserves the right to refuse admission to any child, parent, visitor or member of staff who appears to be contagious, in order to protect the health of others. Common examples include vomiting or diarrhoea (where a minimum 48-hour exclusion after the last episode applies), chickenpox (until all spots have crusted over), or other infectious conditions as listed in the UKHSA guidance. Staff are also expected to remain at home if they are unwell or infectious and to seek medical advice before returning.

4. Outbreak Management and Liaison with Public Health

If an unusual pattern of illness is observed—such as several cases of diarrhoea, vomiting or rash illness occurring within a short period—the Nursery Manager will contact **UKHSA East of England** and **Suffolk Public Health** for advice. We recognise that early notification helps to prevent larger outbreaks and ensures that expert guidance is followed.

During an outbreak, we may temporarily increase cleaning schedules, restrict visitors, or adjust daily routines to reduce transmission risks. Parents and carers will always be kept informed about any outbreaks and the actions being taken. If restrictions are advised by Public Health or UKHSA—such as limiting external visitors—these will be implemented immediately.

All notifiable diseases, as defined under the *Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984*, will be reported appropriately. The Nursery Manager will maintain a record of communications and actions taken during any outbreak to support evaluation and learning.

5. Waste Management

All waste that could present a risk of infection—such as used PPE, nappies, tissues or cleaning materials—is disposed of safely and in line with the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and COSHH regulations. Dedicated waste bins with lids and liners are used throughout the nursery. These are emptied regularly and stored securely until collection by an approved waste contractor.

6. Training and Communication

All staff receive induction and annual refresher training in infection prevention and control. This includes hand hygiene, PPE use, cleaning routines, outbreak procedures and the principles of cross-contamination prevention. Regular supervision and audits ensure that practice remains consistent and that staff are confident in their responsibilities.

Parents and carers are kept informed through newsletters, notices and induction materials about how they can help prevent infection, such as following exclusion periods, encouraging hand hygiene at home, and keeping ill children away from the setting until fully recovered.

During times of heightened concern—such as a local outbreak or national public health alert—the nursery will share up-to-date information and follow all official guidance from UKHSA, Suffolk Public Health, and the Department for Education.



7. Monitoring and Review

The Nursery Manager is responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of infection control practices, maintaining cleaning records, and reviewing this policy at least annually or sooner if new guidance is issued. Audits and reflective reviews are undertaken regularly to ensure continuous improvement and alignment with statutory frameworks.

Through these measures, Unity Stars Nursery ensures that every child benefits from a safe, clean and nurturing environment where health and wellbeing are central to everyday practice.