



Dolce Casa Montessori

Sickness, Illness and Exclusion Policy

At Dolce Casa Montessori, we recognise our responsibility to safeguard the health and wellbeing of all children, staff, families, and visitors. This is fundamental to providing a safe, nurturing environment and to reducing the risk of illness and infection spreading within the setting.

Young children are particularly vulnerable to the rapid spread of illness due to close contact, shared spaces, and developing immune systems. We firmly believe that children who are unwell are best cared for at home, where they can rest and recover comfortably.

We understand that arranging alternative childcare at short notice can be challenging for families; however, the health, comfort, and safety of the child—and the wider nursery community—must always remain our priority.

If parents/carers have any concerns regarding their child's health, they are encouraged to seek medical advice by contacting NHS 111 (or 18001 111 for textphone users) or their local healthcare provider.

Child Illness

- If a child is diagnosed with a communicable or infectious disease, Dolce Casa Montessori will follow the latest guidance provided by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) regarding exclusion periods and control measures.
- If a child attends the setting while visibly unwell, parents/carers will be contacted and asked to collect their child as soon as possible. Emergency contacts will be used if parents/carers cannot be reached.
- If a child becomes unwell while at the setting, they will be cared for with sensitivity and reassurance. Where appropriate, the child may rest in a quiet area away from other children, supervised by a member of staff, until collection.
- Parents/carers must inform the nursery promptly if their child is diagnosed with an infectious illness such as scarlet fever, chickenpox, measles, or meningitis.
- Where required, the Manager will seek advice from UKHSA and follow all recommended actions.
- Staff are not medically trained; therefore, medical advice may be sought when necessary to ensure appropriate decision-making.

Last Review: January 2026

- In line with UKHSA guidance, children who experience vomiting and/or diarrhoea must be excluded for 48 hours from the last episode to prevent the spread of infection.

Raised Temperature (Fever)

Young children are less able to regulate their body temperature, so a raised temperature should not be used as the sole indicator of illness.

- A temperature of **38°C or above** is considered a fever.
- If a child presents with a raised temperature:
 - Remove excess layers of clothing (do not fully undress the child)
 - Offer regular sips of water to prevent dehydration
- Children with a fever who appear unwell should remain at home.
- Rest and sleep are essential to support recovery.

Emergency Treatment

- If a child's condition is considered serious or life-threatening, an ambulance will be called immediately.
- Under no circumstances will staff transport a sick child in a private vehicle.
- Parents/carers will be contacted immediately and asked to meet the child at the hospital or setting.
- A senior member of staff or the child's key person will accompany the child to hospital, taking all relevant documentation and comfort items.
- Emergency medical attention will be sought if a child has a raised temperature accompanied by:
 - Difficulty breathing
 - Persistent crying or distress
 - Rash that does not fade
 - Sensitivity to light
 - Stiff neck
 - Seizures
 - Any behaviour or symptoms that are unusual for the child

Vaccinations

Dolce Casa Montessori recognises the importance of vaccinations in protecting children from serious and potentially life-threatening illnesses.

- Children will not be excluded following vaccination if they are otherwise well.
- Some children may experience mild side effects (e.g. slight fever, tiredness).
- If a child appears unwell following vaccination, the nursery's standard procedures for managing illness will be followed.

Exclusion

- Mild illness is common in early childhood; however, exclusion may be necessary to protect the health of others.
- The Manager retains discretion to decide whether a child is well enough to attend.
- Dolce Casa Montessori follows UKHSA guidance on exclusion and incubation periods.
- In the event of an outbreak, advice will be sought from UKHSA, and parents/carers will be informed of any necessary actions.

Absences

- Parents/carers are asked to notify the nursery as soon as possible if their child will be absent and to provide the reason for absence.
- All absences are recorded in the nursery attendance register.
- If a child does not attend their expected session without prior notification, the nursery will contact parents/carers as part of safeguarding procedures.
- Any concerns regarding prolonged or unexplained absences will be managed in line with the nursery's Safeguarding and Attendance Policies.