



## EARLY YEARS HANDWASHING POLICY

### AIM OF THIS POLICY

- To keep children and adults as healthy as possible.
- To provide a hygienic environment.
- To teach children about good personal hygiene.
- To keep germs to a minimum.

**Hand hygiene must be maintained throughout the day at school and at home.**

**Posters on hand hygiene are displayed in the Early Years department.**

**The importance of frequent handwashing with soap and water (or using hand sanitizer where soap and water are not available) is emphasised to the children. Staff need to be aware of children who can not use hand sanitizer.**

Children and adults will be encouraged to wash their hands before and after:

### **Before-**

- Arriving at the Early Years department
- Leaving the Early Years department
- Snacks
- Lunch
- Cooking
- Before and after handling food, feeding a child, or eating.
- Using the toilet.
- Changing a nappy
- Helping a child use the bathroom

### **After-**

- Using the toilet
- Handling animals/insects
- Gardening
- Messy play
- Coughing and sneezing.
- Cleaning the nose
- Wash children's hands after helping the child use the bathroom or changing their nappy
- Dealing with a sick child.
- After handling waste baskets or rubbish.

**Staff will help and demonstrate how to wash their hands and act as role models.**

- Pull up their sleeves
- Wet hands
- Add soap to hands
- Rub soap into hands for 20 seconds ensuring that all the hand is covered and in between the fingers.
- Remove the soap with the water.
- Shake hands to remove the water
- Dry Thoroughly

**Staff should also follow hand washing procedure displayed by each sink.**

Updated-January 2024

To be reviewed-January 2026