



Early Years Handwashing Policy

Aims of this Policy

- To keep children and adults as healthy as possible.
- To provide a clean, hygienic environment.
- To teach children about good personal hygiene.
- To minimise the spread of germs and illness.

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

Posters on correct handwashing procedures are displayed throughout the Early Years department.

The importance of frequent handwashing with soap and water (or using hand sanitiser where soap and water are not available) is regularly reinforced with the children.

Staff should also be aware of any children who cannot use hand sanitiser due to allergies or skin sensitivities.

When to Wash Hands

Children and adults are encouraged to wash their hands at the following times:

Before:

- Arriving at the Early Years department.
- Leaving the Early Years department.
- Snack time.
- Lunch time.
- Cooking activities.
- 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 or insects.
- Gardening.
- Messy play.
- Coughing or sneezing.
- Cleaning the nose.
- Helping a child use the bathroom or changing a nappy.
- Dealing with a sick child.
- Handling waste baskets or rubbish.

Handwashing Procedure

Staff act as role models and support children in developing good handwashing habits by demonstrating the correct technique.

1. Pull up sleeves.
2. Wet hands with clean water.
3. Add soap.
4. Rub hands together for at least 20 seconds, ensuring all areas are covered — including between fingers, the backs of hands, and under fingernails.
5. Rinse thoroughly under running water.
6. Shake off excess water.
7. Dry hands thoroughly using a clean towel or paper towel.

Staff must also follow the handwashing procedure displayed by each sink in the Early Years department.

Policy Review:

This policy will be reviewed every, or more frequently if required by changes in legislation, guidance, or school operational needs.

Written by:	Jenni Garnett		
Agreed Date:	September 2025		
Board of Governors			
	Print Name:	Signed:	Date:
Academic Director:			
	Print Name:	Signed:	Date:
Review Date:	September 2027		