

COALWAY EARLY YEARS – RISK ASSESSMENT FOR COVID 19 PANDEMIC

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Review Date: As and when guidance changes

COVID 19 is an illness that can affect your lungs and airways. It is caused by a type of Coronavirus. Symptoms can be mild, moderate, severe or fatal. In some cases people can be carrying the virus but be asymptomatic (without any symptoms). This updated risk assessments reflects the new public health guidance from 24th February 2022.

What are the hazards?	Who can be harmed?	Controls in place/required	Additional controls	<i>Action required by (initial)</i>	<i>Action required by (date)</i>	<i>Completed</i>
Spread of COVID 19 causing infection and illness	Staff; children; parents; relatives; visitors; extended family members of staff, families and visitors.	<p>Infection Control Measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handwashing – sufficient facilities and staff encourage and supervise this regularly throughout the day. Staff and children wash hands on arrival, before/after eating, after sneezing/blowing nose/coughing/using. Children assisted to wash hands. Staff use hand sanitizer regularly. Staff educate children about good hand-washing. Notices displayed in toilet areas. • Respiratory hygiene – children taught good respiratory hygiene (use tissue to blow nose and bin straight after, sneeze into tissue or elbow), staff also practice good respiratory hygiene. Bins for tissues provided in rooms and all other indoor areas, in outdoor area – these are emptied and disposed of at the end of every day. Notices displayed about good respiratory hygiene. • Ventilation – Windows and doors to be 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand sanitiser provided in rooms, kitchen, staff break areas, office, outdoor play spaces. • Hand sanitiser to be taken for excursions away from the building such as trips to the Nature Area. • ALL handwashing by children to be supervised by adults • Children and staff educated about not touching face, eyes, mouth, nose. • Children likely to put things in their mouths closely supervised. • Windows to be open 	All staff/visitors/parents/carers	UPDATED FEB 2022	Yes - ongoing

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		<p>opened to the outside throughout the day if possible (only when perimeter exits are locked). In very cold weather windows and doors will be opened periodically to allow for ventilation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CO2 detectors installed in each playroom to identify poor ventilation • Illness – ‘zero tolerance’ policy on illness – parents informed that a child displaying any signs of illness must not come to playgroup. Any child becoming ill during the day will be sent home. SEE BELOW FOR ‘SYMPTOMS OF COVID 19’. <p>Use of PPE-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face coverings- There is no longer a legal requirement to wear face coverings in indoor settings or on public transport therefore it is now personal preference/responsibility. • Staff are no longer required to wear PPE for activities that include hard to clean resources, however vigilance regarding hand washing remains. • ‘Normal’ PPE requirements (disposable apron and gloves) must be used for nappy changing, any prolonged close contact (eg; changing a child’s clothes, administering first aid) or if supervising a child who has become ill 	<p>during indoor play to allow flow of air.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rooms and outdoor areas set up for normal operations and outdoor learning time within regular routine. • Staff instructed to turn children away displaying ANY signs of illness. • Frequent reminders are sent via newsletters and other means such as social media 			
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		<p>Social distancing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrivals/Departures – Arrivals and departure of children will continue to happen in the outdoor area with staff supervision. Gates will only be opened 5 minutes prior to arrival/departures to allow adults to spread out in the garden. Parents are allowed to enter the building in some circumstances (arranged meetings) and are able to wear face masks if they wish. Hand sanitizer will be available. • Building and premises – windows to be open to allow air to flow around indoor area. • Room and outdoor layouts have been returned to normal operational requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff will supervise drop off/collection of children. • Squirrels room will be used for staff breaks where possible. 	Managers All staff	UPDATED FEB 2022	Yes - ongoing
		<p>Cleaning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normal cleaning procedures are sufficient for daily practice. Staff will support thorough cleaning systems by keeping the rooms and outdoor space tidy and free from clutter. Periodic disinfection of resources and washing of soft furnishings will be included as part of the cleaning regime. • Extra cleaning equipment and resources such as spray disinfectant, sanitiser and wipes available throughout the premises to facilitate regular cleaning with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces. • In the event of suspected or confirmed case of COVID 19 the Government flowchart and protocol to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children are educated about the need to maintain a tidy and hygienic environment • Children to be encouraged to contribute to cleaning tasks in a playful way, such as washing up the home corner resources 	All staff	UPDATED FEB 2022	Yes - ongoing

		be followed.				
		<p>Shielding of vulnerable people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following expert clinical advice and the successful rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine programme, people previously considered to be clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) will not be advised to shield again. The situation is now very different to when shielding was first introduced. We understand a lot more about the virus and what makes someone more at risk from severe disease 13 from COVID-19. The vaccine continues to be successfully rolled out, and other treatments and interventions are becoming available. Individuals previously identified as CEV are advised to continue to follow the same guidance as the general public on how to stay safe and help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Individuals with a weakened immune system should follow DHSC and UKHSA advice for people whose immune system means they are at higher risk from COVID-19. The risk to children and young people of severe disease from COVID-19 is very low compared to adults, even for those with chronic conditions. All children and young people over 5, including those who have been identified by their medical team as being at higher risk, are eligible for COVID-19 vaccinations. They should attend their education setting unless advised otherwise by a health care professional or medical team. Individuals should consider advice from their health professional on whether additional precautions are right for them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are currently no staff members in need of shielding however staff may liaise with their employer if their circumstances change 	Managers	UPDATED FEB 2022	Yes - ongoing

		<p>Visitors/Deliveries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents – parents and other family members are permitted to enter the building but this will be arranged in advance. However, meetings via telephone or online are preferable. • Partnership agencies – if possible, all meetings and conferences with partnership agencies will be conducted remotely. Individual requests for visits will be reviewed and if accepted visitors must abide by all protective measures. The exception would be if there was an immediate risk to the safety of a child or in the event of a need for emergency medical attention. • Deliveries – drivers announce their arrival at the main gate and are permitted entry by staff. Staff will meet delivery personnel at the perimeter gate and take delivery of items. • Parents/Carers wishing to visit the setting with a view to registering their child can do so. Adults are encouraged to sanitise hands on arrival and departure. Visits can take place during normal operational hours and we offer a free taster session to parents for 1.5 hours. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No vehicles are permitted on site with the exception of staff, delivery drivers and services, or in the event of an emergency. • Disabled drivers must obtain special permission to drive on site from the school staff. • Visitors must not attend if they are unwell. 	Managers/DSL/ SENDCo	UPDATED FEB 2022	Yes - ongoing
		<p>Symptoms of COVID 19 – information about signs and symptoms of COVID 19 (also known as Coronavirus) are shared with staff and parents via letters, notices and links to the Government website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Symptoms identified at home – if a member of staff, child or family member displays symptoms of COVID 19 they must NOT come to playgroup. They must order a PCR test. They must also adhere to this guidance if they have tested positive on a LFD and have no symptoms. 	<p>Staff/Children that have tested positive for Covid-19 or are displaying the key symptoms of COVID-19 will not be able to attend the setting, given the potential risk to others. Management will take the decision to refuse attendance as</p>	Managers All staff	6/9/2021	Yes - ongoing

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of staff falling ill at playgroup – the staff member will leave work to isolate and seek a PCR test/ LFD test. • If a child is displaying COVID-19 symptoms, parents will be contacted to collect them immediately and will be advised to seek a PCR/LFD test for child and to share results with management. • Testing –From 21st February 2022 staff will no longer be expected to continue taking part in asymptomatic testing and should follow asymptomatic testing advice for the general population. <p>Many people will no longer be infectious to others after 5 days. Staff/ Parents/Carers will be advised to undertake a LFD test from 5 days after symptoms started (or the day the test was taken if they did not have symptoms) followed by another LFD test the next day. If both these test results are negative, and they do not have a high temperature, the risk that they are still infectious is much lower and they can safely return to their normal routine.</p>	<p>it is necessary to protect other children and staff from possible infection from Covid-19.</p> <p>Staff/ Parents/Carers will be advised to undertake a LFD test from 5 days after symptoms started (or the day the test was taken if they did not have symptoms) followed by another LFD test the next day. If both these test results are negative, and they do not have a high temperature, the risk that they are still infectious is much lower and they can safely return to their normal routine.</p>			
		<p>Mental well-being</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management will promote mental well-being by being available for support and advice where needed for staff and families. Any concerns or worries will be discussed and addressed if possible. • Where needed and possible management will signpost staff and families to outreach support. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families at home will be kept in regular contact and supported where needed. • SENDCo/DSL will maintain strong links with families in setting and at home and work closely with partnership agencies. 	<p>Managers DSL All staff</p>	<p>UPDATED FEB 2022</p>	<p>Yes - ongoing</p>

		OUTBREAKS OF COVID-19 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If the setting was to experience an outbreak of COVID-19, please refer to the setting's 'CONTINGENCY PLAN'		All staff/ parents/carers	UPDATED FEB 2022	Yes- ongoing
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