**Hand Washing Policy**

This policy was adopted by Combe Pre-school and After-school Club on 03.09.24.

**Aim**

We believe that hand washing is an important approach to help prevent and reduce the spread of many infectious diseases within our setting. We aim to educate and encourage the children to wash their hands effectively each day at appropriate times.

**Objectives**

* We provide adequate and appropriate facilities and resources for hand washing such as child height sink, clean water, soap, hand driers, paper towels and sanitiser (when on walks or outings).
* We actively educate and encourage the children to learn about the importance of handwashing and reducing the risk of spreading infectious diseases in an age appropriate manner. This is done daily, with additional learning opportunities/activities provided during an outbreak of a disease and during the winter months.
* We ensure hand washing posters are provided for children and staff in appropriate areas such as in the toilets and the kitchen.
* We implement, review and train staff and volunteers accordingly regarding handwashing and hygiene practice.
* We work with parents and carers to help promote the importance of good hygiene in their home environment, such as promotional videos, guidance, and posters.
* We use NHS guidance and E-bug sessions to educate the staff, children, and volunteers about correct handwashing procedures.
* We teach the children hand washing songs to help promote the importance of handwashing and to ensure that their handwashing experience is fun and enjoyable.

**Staff will wash their hands:**

* Before and after using the toilet.
* After assisting children with their toileting needs.
* After changing nappies.
* After cleaning the potty or toilets.
* After wiping a runny nose or blowing their own nose.
* Before and after administering first aid.
* Before and after administering medication.
* After using cleaning products or chemicals.
* Before eating, preparing, and serving food.
* After cleaning up bodily fluids.
* After removing protective gloves.
* If hands appear soiled after playing with messy activities or gardening.
* Before and after touching raw and uncooked foods such as meat and vegetables.
* After touching animals or insects in the garden.
* After emptying the bins.

**Staff will encourage the children to wash their hands:**

* Before eating at snack and lunchtimes
* After using the potty or toilet
* After they have wiped or blown their own nose with a tissue
* After participating in messy play or activities, for example painting, sand, gardening, using glue
* After playing outside in the garden.
* After touching animals or insects in the garden.
* If hands appear soiled during the day.

**To wash hands correctly staff and children must complete the following steps:**

1. Wet your hands with warm water (making sure the temperature is safe for the children to use).
2. Apply enough soap to cover your hands.
3. Rub your hands together for at least 20 seconds (a song can be sung that lasts 20 seconds to help with timing).
4. Rinse your hands under running water for at least 10 seconds and turn the tap off
5. Dry your hands with the hand drier or a disposable paper towel which must be placed in the bin.

**Hand sanitiser should only be used if:**

* Staff and children are going on a walk or outing, and hand washing facilities are not available.
* If staff are in the garden supervising the children and they have blown their own nose or have helped a child to wipe or blow their own nose, and they can not readily access hand washing facilities in the garden.

**Eczema and other skin conditions or allergies:**

* If staff, volunteers, parents, carers or children have a skin condition such as eczema or an allergy to a certain type of soap or hand sanitiser, then we will be happy to provide an alternative product to help prevent any reactions to the person or child concerned. Parents, carers, volunteers, and staff may provide their own product to keep at the setting, if this is preferred.
* Children or staff who have a skin condition and require a specific cream or lotion to be applied after hand washing, then parents, carers, volunteers, and staff are welcome to bring this into our setting to help alleviate any pain or discomfort that they may feel. Creams and lotions must be kept in a high kitchen cupboard out of reach of the children.