

Pandemic Policy

1. The Hamlet Charter

The Hamlet believes everyone at The Hamlet should be supported in a happy and safe environment. We keep children, young people, and adults safe by reducing the risk of contact with infectious diseases and illnesses. The Hamlet will use this policy to provide precautionary measures to minimise transmission risks of disease at The Hamlet during an epidemic or pandemic.

2. Purpose of this policy and why we have it

This Policy defines and assists with the arrangements in place at The Hamlet that assures compliance with the Government and leading bodies requirements with relation to the outbreak of a pandemic such as Covid19. This information builds upon our current procedures for areas such as Safeguarding, Equality and Diversity, Caring for Children / Students who are Sick and Infection Control. The policy will be reviewed as situations develop as is the nature of a pandemic.

3. Scope of this policy

- All children, young people and adults attending activities at The Hamlet
- Parent/carers and family members
- Staff, student placements and volunteers
- Visitors.

4. Policy implementation and monitoring

We are aware of the vulnerabilities of the children and adults who use our centres and the challenges implementing this policy poses. The Hamlet wants to be able to continue to offer high standards across all its services at both children and adults centres.

We will do this by:

- Ensuring physical distancing is enabled as far as practical
- Implementing good hygiene practices
- Avoiding coming into contact with infected children and adults or anyone displaying symptoms as far as possible
- Putting in place protective measures for everyone at or visiting The Hamlet to reduce the risk of transmission
- Continuing to follow our other policies as long as they do not conflict with this policy and by guided government and local advice as far as possible.

The main areas we will be considering are:

- Minimising contact with individuals who are unwell
- Maintaining personal and respiratory hygiene (handwashing, catch it, kill it, bin it)
- Ensuring cleanliness of the environment (especially frequently touched surfaces)
- Minimising general contact and mixing (creating bubbles and limiting numbers)
- The use of Protective and Personal Equipment (PPE)
- Testing and Tracking.

5. Legal References (latest version)

- Coronavirus Act 2020, Health and Safety at Work Act (1974), Health and Safety Executive (HSE)
- Government Briefings, Public Health England (PHE) and World Health Organisation (WHO). Advice from but not limited to, The Secretary of State, The Chief Medical Officer, Local Authority (LA) and Department for Education (DfE). The policy also has regard to Ofsted and Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

This policy should be read in conjunction with other relevant Hamlet policies and accompanying procedures.

Date approved by the Board: September 2020

Date of next review: January 2021

Post holder(s) responsible for this policy: CEO

Signed by Chair of the Board of Trustees: