



## **Merry Poppets Nursery**

### **CONJUNCTIVITIS POLICY**

Date policy becomes effective 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025

#### **Policy for exclusion from nursery for conjunctivitis – 48 hours following treatment.**

##### **Rationale**

Our Policy at Merry Poppets is that any child with a contagious illness must not attend nursery, this now includes Conjunctivitis where we have noticed that it is affecting several children or staff at one time and can spread rapidly through the setting unless treated. Conjunctivitis is an inflammation of the outer lining of the eye and eyelid causing sore or itchy red eye(s) with a sticky or watery discharge. It can be caused by bacteria, viruses or allergies. Spread is by direct or indirect contact with the discharge from the eyes. Prompt treatment and good hand washing helps to prevent it spreading.

##### **Purpose**

To ensure the Health and Safety of all children and staff, and to prevent the spread of infectious conjunctivitis, children diagnosed with this condition will be required to stay at home for 48 hours after starting treatment.

##### **Policy Guidelines**

1. **Diagnosis and Treatment:**
  - Children diagnosed with Conjunctivitis must begin appropriate treatment as prescribed by a healthcare provider.
  - If conjunctivitis is suspected, the child should be seen by a healthcare provider before returning to nursery.
  
2. **Exclusion Criteria:**
  - Children with conjunctivitis will be excluded from nursery for a minimum of 48 hours after starting prescribed treatment.
  - The child should be symptom-free or show significant improvement before returning to nursery.
  
3. **Symptoms of conjunctivitis:**
  - Red, swollen eyes
  - Discharge (clear, yellow or green mucus)
  - Itching or discomfort in the eyes
  - Crusting of the eyes upon waking.
  
4. **Return to nursery:**
  - A child can return to nursery after the 48 -hour exclusion period if the child's symptoms have improved and the child no longer exhibits noticeable discharge or eye irritation.



**5. Prevention and hygiene:**

- Conjunctivitis is spread by contact with discharge from the eye such as when an effected person rubs their eyes with their hands and then touches something.
- Encourage frequent handwashing and the use of tissues to prevent the spread of infection.
- Clean toys, surfaces, and materials regularly to minimise the risk of transmission.
- Managers will enforce the systems of control throughout the setting, which involves enhanced cleaning schedules for all areas of the setting.

**6. Communication:**

- Parents should inform the nursery immediately if their child is diagnosed with conjunctivitis.
- Nursery staff will notify parents if their child is displaying symptoms of conjunctivitis and the child will be sent home.
- The child will need to be seen by a medical professional and if the child is diagnosed with conjunctivitis, then they must begin appropriate treatment as prescribed. Children will have to abstain from nursery for at least 48 hours after starting treatment.

This policy aims to balance the child's wellbeing with the need to protect the rest of the nursery from potential infections.