**Illness Policy (EYFS September 2025)**

**Policy Statement:** At Little Acorns preschool, we prioritise the health and well-being of all children in our care. This illness policy outlines our approach to preventing the spread of illnesses and maintaining a safe and healthy environment in alignment with EYFS 2025 guidance.

**Exclusion Criteria:**

* Children exhibiting symptoms of illness will be temporarily excluded from the setting to reduce infection risk.
* We adhere to local health authority guidelines on exclusion criteria for common illnesses.

**Parental Communication:**

* Parents or legal guardians will be immediately informed if their child becomes ill at the setting.
* Parents are required to arrange prompt collection of their ill child.

**Symptoms Requiring Exclusion:** Children must be excluded if they exhibit:

* Fever (temperature of 38°C/100.4°F or higher)
* Vomiting or diarrhoea
* Severe coughing or breathing difficulties
* Severe sore throat or difficulty swallowing
* Persistent or severe headache
* Rash accompanied by fever or behavioural changes
* Red, runny eyes with discharge
* Other symptoms deemed concerning by the setting

**Return Criteria:**

* Children may return after being symptom-free for at least 48 hours without fever-reducing medication.

**Proper Hand Hygiene:**

* Regular handwashing with soap and water (minimum 20 seconds) is encouraged for staff and children.

**Cleaning and Sanitization:**

* Regular cleaning and sanitization routines are followed, focusing on frequently touched surfaces and toys.

**Health Records and Emergency Contacts:**

* Parents must provide current health records, including vaccinations and emergency contacts.
* Emergency contact details will be easily accessible at all times.

**Medication Administration:**

* Medication administration follows strict guidelines and is conducted with written parental consent.
* All medications are securely stored and administered according to instructions and regulations.

**Reporting Illness Outbreaks:**

* Suspected contagious illness outbreaks will be promptly reported to local health authorities.

Signed: Chairperson  
Date: September 2025