**Infection Control / Hygiene Policy (Sept 2025)**

**Policy Statement:** At Little Acorns preschool, we are committed to providing a safe, healthy, and hygienic environment, aligning fully with the EYFS 2025 standards. This policy outlines our approach to preventing infection spread and maintaining high standards of cleanliness and hygiene.

**Hand Hygiene:**

* Staff, children, and visitors will practice regular and effective hand hygiene.
* Handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds is mandatory:
  + Before and after handling food
  + After using the toilet or changing nappies
  + After coughing, sneezing, or blowing the nose
  + After touching potentially contaminated surfaces

**Respiratory Hygiene:**

* Children and staff will be educated about respiratory hygiene, emphasising covering the mouth and nose with a tissue or elbow when coughing or sneezing.
* Tissues will be available throughout the setting.

**Cleaning and Sanitisation:**

* Regular cleaning and sanitisation will occur using approved disinfectants.
* High-touch surfaces, toys, and equipment will be sanitised multiple times daily.

**Illness Management:**

* Children exhibiting symptoms of illness will be temporarily excluded from the setting.
* Local health authority guidelines on illness management will be strictly followed.

**Isolation Area:**

* An isolation area will be provided for sick children awaiting collection by parents or authorised contacts. Sick children will wait here for collection with a member of staff.

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):**

* Staff will use appropriate PPE such as disposable gloves, aprons, and face masks when required.
* PPE will be mandatory during activities involving potential contact with bodily fluids or contaminated materials.

**Food Hygiene:**

* Strict food preparation and handling protocols will be adhered to, preventing contamination.
* Staff will practice rigorous hand hygiene before and after food handling.

**Communication with Parents:**

* Parents or legal guardians will be promptly informed of illness outbreaks or contagious conditions in the setting.
* Parents must notify the childminder if their child becomes ill and adhere to the return criteria following illness.

**Health Records:**

* Up-to-date health records, including vaccination documentation, will be maintained confidentially and securely.

**Alignment with EYFS 2025 Changes:**

* This policy reflects the EYFS 2025 emphasis on robust infection prevention measures and enhanced hygiene practices.
* Regular staff training will ensure alignment with new EYFS 2025 health and safety standards.

Signed: Chairperson  
Date: September 2025