Policy no 60 – Infection Control Policy

REV: 03 DATE: 10.08.2022

Policy Statement:

It is the priority of *Scamps & Scholars* to protect all children attending our service and all persons working in our service from the transmission of infections. The health and well-being of all children, staff and visitors to our service is paramount and our aim is to prevent and manage any infection which may be present in the service. This policy is available and communicated to all parents, children and staff. This policy has been updated in line with current guidance the HSPC Infection Prevention and Control guidance for services providing childcare during the COVID-19 Pandemic, the DCYA's Return to Work Safely Protocol and Tusla's Children Services Regulations Guidance Document for Early Years Services: COVID-19.

Principle

This policy is underwritten by the he Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and the Child Care Regulations (The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services)(Amendments) Regulations 2016. and the Tusla Quality and Regulatory Framework.

Availability & Communication of this policy:

This policy is available to all our service users. It will be communicated through our website and also through the parental information disk that contains all our policies & procedures. There is also a copy of this policy in the reception area of our service.

Rationale:

Infection can lead to serious ill-health among children. Infection control procedures seek to reduce the risk of children getting sick in a service by ensuring good hygiene is followed and the risk of infection is minimised. This will be communicated with parents, so good hygiene and infection control practices will be carried over from the service to home and vice versa.

Risk Assessments

• Risk assessments will be undertaken by staff, if deemed necessary to assess if activities, actions or environments posts risks from an infection control standpoint to the children and staff of Scamps & Scholars.

Hand washing / sterilisation

- Scamps & Scholars has a hand washing policy which all staff promote and model for children, after using the toilet, before eating/preparing food, after wiping noses, waste disposal and mopping up spills.
- Staff must wash their hands, before preparing or serving food, before eating or drinking, after going to the toilet, assisting children going to the toilet, dealing with bodily fluids, cleaning procedures, caring for sick children, handling soiled clothing, dealing with waste and after removing disposable gloves.
- A wash hand basin is provided in each room with a constant supply of hot (no greater than 43c) and cold running water, liquid anti-bacterial soap and paper towels. A wash hand basin is also available in all bathrooms, kitchens and activity rooms and also a number of sinks at the entrances to the building.

- Children are encouraged to wash their hands with warm water and liquid soap under supervision after visiting the toilet, before eating, after sneezing, coughing or blowing noses, after handling animals, after touching a cut or sore and after outside play and activities. Clear guidance on handwashing is outlined for children and staff alike in our service.
- Staff will supervise and assist children to encourage effective handwashing, appropriate to their age.
- We also have several hand sanitising stations located strategically throughout our building for, in general staff / adult use however should we experience issues with wyter supply children may also utilise these units. Instructions on how to sanitise your hands correctly are adjacent to each unit.

Food preparation

- Staff always wear gloves when preparing and serving food and wash hands after removing gloves.
- Staff always wash their hands after prepping food and removing waste food and materials.
- Perishable food is kept in a refrigerator, between temperatures of 0 and 5 Celsius. Any perishable food left at room temperature for more than 2 hours will be discarded safely.
- Staff involved in helping children with toileting are not involved in preparing food.

Cleaning and the premises

- All staff are aware of their role in maintaining high standards of hygiene.
- Scamps & Scholars reinforces good practice regarding keeping the environment and premises clean and safe.
- Spillages of blood, faeces, urine, vomit or other bodily fluids or excretions are cleaned immediately and with priority. Disposable tissue paper and mops are not be used for these and extreme caution is exercised at all times.
- Daily, weekly and monthly cleaning schedules are in place and records kept (see attached).
- Scamps and Scholars has a contract with a bin removal company for the removal and disposal of all waste at Scamps and Scholars.
- Our premises are free from pests and rodents and we have a contract with an external agent who checks our premises on a monthly basis.
- All staff receive regular support & supervision in relation to infection control and training is provided as required.
- We carry and maintain a good stock of cleaning products and tools to ensure that hygiene practices can be carried out at all times. Adequate supplies for cleaning are provided to be used, like clean cloths, gloves, aprons, mops, buckets and detergents.
- Stock levels are maintained by designated staff and replenished weekly.
- Toys and play materials are cleaned daily, with attention placed on especially soiled items. They are not brought into the toilet. Toys are chosen that are easy to clean and disinfect.
- Toys are in general not shared.
- Personal soft toys and items like blankets are not shared.
- Toilets, floors, shelves storing bags, tables and chairs and other areas are cleaned daily to help decrease the spread of infection, cleaning agents used are detailed on our cleaning schedules.
- Children have individual hairbrushes, toothbrushes, dental products, clothing and towels. These items are not be shared. Any soiled clothes are placed in a plastic bag, sealed and sent home with parents/guardians.
- At least once a day, even in winter, all rooms in the service are aired out.
- A cleaning schedule for each room is available and bespoke to each room.
- A contract is in place with a reputable cleaning contractor who carries out the "large cleaning" jobs around this centre such as hovering, dusting, mopping, floor buffing etc.

• A disinfectant fogging unit is located on site and is utilised as scheduled to assist in disinfecting rooms, room furniture and room equipment.

Nappy Changing and Toileting

- The nappy changing room and toilets are adequately ventilated, by window/mechanical ventilation.
- A wash basin is included in the nappy changing room and has hot and cold running water and access to liquid soap and paper towels. Staff must wash and dry their hands before and after nappy changing.
- Children's hands will be washed and dried after nappy changing, staff will also ensure that they have thoroughly washed their own hands before and after nappy changing.
- Staff that are changing nappies use disposable gloves that are removed before re-dressing the child.
- All nappy changing mats used are waterproof, in good condition i.e. no exposed stuffing or foam and have an easily cleanable cover. Nappy changing mats are wiped down by staff after each nappy change.
- Children are never left unattended while having their nappy changed.
- All nappies are disposed of in a way which will not risk infection. Soiled nappies are stored in an airtight, sealed container that is removed from the premises at least once per day. Nappy disposal containers are kept away from children and out of their reach. Nappy changing units are cleaned thoroughly on a regular basis and after use.
- All staff are be fully trained and briefed in nappy changing and infection control.
- Nappy changing should be a pleasant experience for the child and staff members should use this opportunity to interact with the child and provide one to one attention.

Mouthing Toys

- Mouthing toys are utilised primarily in the Wobblers & Toddlers rooms. They will include any toy or comforter that a child will be able to place in their mouth.
- They may be used for comfort or for specific purposes such as teething.
- Dodies would be included under this section.
- Soft toys are not permitted to used as a "mouthing toy" as they cannot be affectively disinfected.

We have a <u>"Mouthing Toy Box"</u> in each room that requires one. This box is labelled and toys that are in use by children in the room will be placed in this box during the day between use. The box contains a disfection solution ensuring that the toy is fully disinfected between use and continues to allow these items to be utilised safetly by the child through the day.

We also have a <u>"Dodie Hotel"</u> (pacifier) in each of these rooms. This is a unit with several small draws within it, each draw large enough to contain a standard sized Dodie in each draw. Each draw is labelled with the childs name. The box contains a disfection solution ensuring that, between use the Dodie is placed in its own draw thus ensuring the toy is fully disinfected between use and continues to allow these items to be utilised safetly by the child through the day.

Immunisation

- Our immunisation policy is followed at all times with all children and staff.
- Children's immunisation records are obtained when children begin in Scamps and Scholars. Parents are asked to update Scamps and Scholars when children receive additional immunisations.
- Parents have a right to choose to whether to immunise their child or not.
- If a child is not immunised, for their own safety parents will be notified of any infectious diseases and a child may be excluded from Scamps and scholars if an infectious disease that they are not immunised against is circulating. Parents will always be consulted on this. We always work in the best interests of children's health.

Animals and pets

- Handwashing and drying procedures is followed before and after handling any animals and pets that are present in Scamps and Scholars when applicable.
- All animals and pets are managed in accordance with required and appropriate instructions for their care.
- Children are supervised with animals at all times.

Procedure for Managing an infectious illness

- Children are encouraged to cover their nose and mouth with a tissue before sneezing or coughing. Hands are washed after blowing noses, sneezing or coughing.
- Staff will report any illness to the manager/designated person in charge.
- Unwell children, with a temperature and/or specific signs and symptoms, will be excluded from the service until a diagnosis can be made. Management can and will use their discretion when admitting a child back into Scamps and Scholars if they believe the child is still ill and cannot take part in their usual activities. Return to service forms may be required to be completed.
- Any child is displaying symptoms such as a cough, fever or breathing difficulties should not attend the service (COVID-19)
- Parents are advised to contact the service as soon as possible if their child is unwell and unable to attend.
- Children should remain at home if they are suffering from general diarrhoea or vomiting for at least 48 hours.
- A plan will be drawn up to help prevent the spread of the illness and the <u>HSE guidelines:</u> <u>Managing an infectious disease in childcare setting</u> will be followed.
- Communication will issue to parents if there is an infectious disease circulating in Scamps and Scholars.
- Notifications will be placed on our noticeboard should any outbreaks be ongoing in Scamps and Scholars

Exclusion table:

The following exlcuison periods are followed in Scamps and Scholars. In certain instances, the exclusion period may be longer than outlined below:



It should be noted that any contagious condition may be referred to the manager where discretion may be applied in light of the number of children in the room and the nature of the contagious condition.

This discretion may insist on an exclusion and / or a medically qualified input (normally in writing from a doctor or chemist) to satisfy that the group settings that operates at our centre will not compromised.

Notifiable disease:

- A list of notifiable diseases is available from the <u>HSE</u>. In the case of notified diseases or if the illness spreads the manager will notify the Tusla Early Years Inspectorate by filling out the <u>Notification of Incidents Form</u> and the HSE Public Health Department.
- When we have been contacted by the Department of Public Health, HSE, in our area and have been advised that we have a confirmed case as listed we will contact Tusla, Early Years Inspectorate. The Department of Public Health Medicine will advise as to the next steps regarding precautions to be taken in oour premises and follow up of contacts and procedures.
- Parents will be informed verbally and in writing if an outbreak has occurred all reasonable information on the outbreak will be provided to them.

COVID-19 Infection Control Guidelines in Scamps & Scholars

- To prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Scamps & Scholars, Scamps & Scholars implements a "play pod" system.
- Play pods are organised across all rooms in Scamps and Scholars, A record of play pods and their makeup is recorded and will be shared with the HSE and Public Health teams in the event of an outbreak of COVID-19.
- Pods may or may not combine depending on current public helath advice.
- We follow the 2m physical distancing recommendation by the National Public Health Emergency Team for adults.
- Scamps and Scholars has a number of hand washing stations, and a number of hand sanitiser stations all staff are encouraged to use and to follow our handwashing policy above.
- All staff may decide to wear face masks while operating in the childcare rooms at their own discretion.
- Scamps and Scholars master cleaning schedule can be seen in the appendices of this policy [attach your cleaning schedule].

Dealing with Suspected COVID-19 Cases in Scamps & Scholars

If a child or staff member in Named Service feels unwell and develops symptoms:

- If a child develops any symptoms of acute respiratory infection including cough, fever, or shortness of breath while in Named Service, a staff member will take the child to [area marked for isolation]. This should be a room if possible but if that is not possible it should be in a place 2m away from others in the room.
 - Parent/guardians will be called and asked to collect their child as soon as possible.
 - A staff member will remain with the child at all times until parent/guardian arrives.
 Due to the nature of COVID-19 physical distance will be need to be retained as much as possible, and the staff member will need to wear a facemask and gloves.
- If a staff member develops symptoms of acute respiratory infection including cough, fever or shortness of breath while in the care facility ask them to go home without delay and contact their GP by telephone.
- They will be located 2 m away from others as much as possible.
 - They will be asked to avoid touching people, surfaces and objects and be advised to cover their mouth and nose with a disposable tissue when they cough or sneeze and put the tissue in the bin. .
 - They will be asked to wear a mask.
- If there is an emergency, staff will call an ambulance, and explain that the child or staff member is unwell with symptoms of COVID-19.
- Any rooms where children or staff need to be isolated is cleaned and contact surfaces disinfected once they leave.

What we do when there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 in Scamps & Scholars

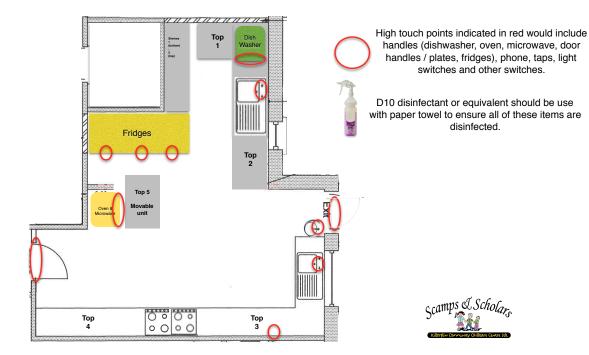
- We advise all individuals with symptoms of COVID-19 to contact their GP for further advice if deemed necessary.
- Scamps and Scholars will liaise with local Public Health staff of the HSE to discuss the case if necessary.
- Scamps and Scholars will notify Tusla Early Years Inspectorate of any confirmed case of COVID-19 in the service.
- Advice on the management of children and staff who came into contact with the case will based on current advice.
- Cleaning of Scamps and Scholars will commence following HPSC advice and guidance.
- Symptomatic are advised to self-isolate and arrange to get tested for COVID-19.
- We will advise confirmed COVID-19 cases to continue to self-isolate at home for a minimum of 7 days and not return to Named Service until they are advised that it is safe to do so.
- (See Pandemic Policy no. 57 for further details)

Montessori Clea	ning roster	Week commen	ncing:		s scamps I. Scholars	Butterflies Montessori
on the following areas: U Unit 1 - Art Press & Chalk Board U Unit 2 - Language area Unit 3 - Practical Life area Unit 4 - Coat peg & teacher Peg Unit 5 - Kitchen / Dolls House / hou dress up areas Unit 6 - containing boxes 1- 10 & All		it 11 - Big sink x2 & press it 14 - boxes 1 - 23 it 15 - Aim Bots & camper es that are un use and touch is on chairs should sanitised ly. oor handles, light switches sh atisfied hourly.	The toilet areas in this touch points (door ha flusher on toilet, light dispenser, towel disp seat etc.). ould Please ensure you us daily.	ndles, taps, switch, soap enser, lock, toilet	The standard disinfectant product should be used with paper towel. You must wear gloves during this process & east your hands on competition. Face mask may be worn at the discretion of the staff member	
	Monday		Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
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Caterpillars Cleanin	g roster	Week com	nmencin	ng:		Scamps & Scholars	Caterpillars Preschool
on the following areas: • Unit 1 - Box 1 - 7 / houses/item1 • Unit 2 - Box 1 - 12 • Unit 3 - Box 1 - 12 • Unit 3 - Box 1 - 10 • Unit 4 - Tray 1 - 5 • Unit 5 - Tray 1 - 5 & item 1 - 4 • Unit 6 - Kitchen unit/ Box 1 - 2 & All • Unit 7 - Book unit/Box 1/Item 1 - 6/ Shelf 1 - 3/Green Chair/Bench 1 - 3 • Unit 8 - Box 1 - 9 • Unit 8 - Chalk Board/Tray 1 - 3/Item 1 - 4		Unit 1 Unit 1 Tables points on nourly.	10 - Sink Unit/Item 1-6 11 - Filing Cabinate 12 - Art organiser / Box 1-12 that are un use and touch on chairs should sanitised r handles, light switches shou fied hourly.	All item listed in red should be sanitised by the room staff on an ongoing basis but not less than once an hour. Please ensure you use your own pen daily.		Area to be cleaned / sanitised. The standard disinfectant product should be used with paper towel. You must wear gloves during this process & east your hands on competition. Face mask may be worn at the discretion of the staff member	
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Junior Preschool C	leaning roster	Week commencir	ng:		scamps et. Scholars	JUNIOR Preschool	
on the following areas: • Unit 1 - Press / Box 1 - 1 2 • Unit 2 - Kitchen / box 1 / item 1-10 • Unit 3 - Box 1 - box 4 / item 1 dolls house • Unit 5 - Press / box 1-2 / Item 1 • Unit 5 - Small sink / item 1			12 - box 1 -1 2 / item 1-7 13 - Press 14 - Filing cabinate 15 - Table 1-2 that are un use and touch on chairs should sanitised	All door handles, light switches should be satisfied hourly. All item listed in red should be sanitised by the room staff on an ongoing basis but not less than once an hour. Please ensure you use your own pen daily.		Area to be cleaned / sanitised. The standard disinfectant product should be used with paper towel. You must wear gloves during this process & east your hands on competition. Face mask may be worn at the discretion of the staff member	
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Kitchen Cleaning Zones & High Touch Points



Toddlers Cleaning r	oster Week c	ommencing:		Scamps et.s	cholars
on the following areas: • Unit 1 - Box 1-9 / Items -1 • Unit 2 - Press • Unit 3 - Filing Cabinate • Unit 4 - Box 1-4 / 1-12 • Unit 5 - Sink Area / Box 1-15 • Unit 6 - Kitchen / Box 1-2 / Item 1-10 • Unit 7 - Tool bench Box 1 / Item 1 -		 Unit 9 - Book Corner / I Unit 10 - Box 1 - 3 / Iter other items Unit 11 - Box 1 - 6 / iter Unit 12 - Chair s 1 - 10 Unit 13 - Table 1 & 2 Unit 14 - press / item 1 Tables that are un use an points on chairs should s hourly. 	m 1 & any be satisfie m 1 All item lis sanitised ongoing b once an h d touch Please en	sted in red should be by the room staff on an pasis but not less than nour. Isure you use your own	Area to be cleaned / sanitised. The standard disinfectant product should be used with paper towel. You must wear gloves during this process & east your hands on competition. Face mask may be worn at the discretion of the staff member
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Wobblers Cleaning	roster	Week commenci	ng:	BAY	Scamps I. Scholar	C	
				Ð~I €	Winter Connects Connects	Wol	oblers
 Unit 1 - Filing cabinate Unit 2 - Chairs & high chairs Unit 3 - Box 1-4 Unit 4 - Box 1-8 / Item 1-11 Unit 5 - Book corner box 1-6 / item 1-6 Unit 6 - Box 1 - 5 Unit 7 - Tool bench / box 1 / item 1 Unit 8 - Kitchen Box 1-2 / item 1-9 			 13. Play dough box 14. AIM bag 15. Spare box of spare toys 16. Press 1-4 / fridge / bin/ a & pan 17. Changing room / changi 'bin etc. that are un use and touch on chairs should sanitised 	sanitised by the room	hould be staff on an less than	Th pr dui cc	e standard disinfectant roduct should be used with paper towel. fou must wear gloves ring this process & east your hands on ompetition. Face mask may be worn at the discretion of the staff member
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Common areas Cleaning roster	Week commencing:		Area to be cleaned / sanitised.
Outside sink, soap dispenser, b (clean & empty) & towel dispense		Same process for staff toilet area upstairs	Fore door at top of stairs - handles / both sides
 Front door handles inside & out Release button for door Hand sanitising unit 	 All taps in sink area the face of soap dispensers Refill all hand towel / soap 	Monitor hooks in hall ways & clean if necessary	 All door handles/plates in upstairs hallway Monitor hooks in hall ways & clean i
 Clean the 2 yellow chairs Fish tank - top and front 	dispensers	 Clean all door handles / plates on Toddlers, Wobblers, junior preschool 	necessary
Caterpillar room door handles	Door handles in staff toilet	& kitchen doors	The standard disinfectant product
 Counter top reception desk Office door handle 	 Clean toilet unit Clean sink, taps & soap dispenser 	 Light switches in the corridor Bins in the hallway 	should be used with paper towel. You must wear gloves during this
Fire door handle into toilet area	 Refill hand towel & soap dispenser 	Dirio in the hainedy	process & east your hands on
 Door handle into Ladybirds 	 Clean door handles into Toddler 	Banisters of stairs	competition. Face mask may be worn at
	room	 Stair gates 	the discretion of the staff member

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Bumble Bees Cleaning roster		Week commencing:				Scamps I. Scholarr	Sumble	
on the following areas: Unit 1 Unit 1 - Boxs 1 - 6 Unit 2 - Box 1 - 3 / item 1 - 17 Unit 3 - Kitchen unit box 1 - box 9 / item 1 - 9 Unit 4 - Filing Cabinet Unit 5 - Box 1 - 4 Unit 6 - Box 1 - 12 / item 1 - 4 Unit 7 - Box 1 - 6 Unit 8 - Shelf 1 & 2 / item 1 - 6 All door		12 - Sand box & Tuff tray touch 13 - Box 1 - 4 / item 1 - 2 flush 14 - Tool bench box 1 - 2 dispe 15 - Chair 1 - 24 / table 1 - 3 seat of 16 - Sensory table Pleas that are un use and touch points on should sanitised hourly. or handles, light switches should be ongo		The toilet areas in this room and all touch points (door handles, taps, flusher on toilet, light switch, soap dispenser, towel dispenser, lock, toilet seat etc.). Please ensure you use your own pen daily. All items listed in red should be should be sanitised by room staff on an ongoing basis but not less than once an hour		Y d co	Area to be cleaned / sanitised. The standard disinfectant product should be used with paper towel. You must wear gloves during this process & east your hands on competition. Face mask may be worn at the discretion of the staff member	
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Ladybirds Cleaning roster	Week co	nmencing:			Scamps & Scholars		Ladybirds	
			E	7~I 0	Collection (Democracy Collines (source 18)	Are	ea to be cleaned / sanitised.	
the following areas: U Unit 1 - Press (anything placed on this U Unit will be U1/1). U Unit 2 - Sensory Box x 2 - U2 Box 1 - U Box 2 Unit 3 - Filing Cabinet - anything placed Unit 3 - Filing Cabinet - anything placed U U Unit 3 - Filing Cabinet - anything placed U U Unit 4 - U4 box 1 - box 2 / item 1 - 19 Unit 5 - box 1 - box 4 Unit 6 - Tool bench / box 1 Unit 7 - Chalk boards Unit 8 - Dolls house & box All C		Unit 10 - mats Unit 11 - press - box 1 - 6 Unit 12 - Book shelf - box 1-2 / unit 1 Unit 13 - not press - box 1 box 6 / it Unit 13 - not press - box 1 box 6 / it Unit 15 - box corner - box 1-6 / item Unit 16 - small sink Unit 17 - Press - box 1 - 12 Unit 18 - Chairs 1 - 12 Unit 19 - Coat hooks Tables that are un use and touch points chairs should santised hourly. All door handles, light switches should Is satisfied hourly.	-26 touch points (flusher on toile min dispenser, tow seat etc.).	let areas in this room and all points (door handles, taps, on toilet, light switch, soap ser, towel dispenser, lock, toilet c.). ensure you use your own pen		Y d cd	The standard disinfectant product should be used with paper towel. four must wear gloves luring this process & east your hands on impetition. Face mask may be worn at the liscretion of the staff member	
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