



Little Bears Nursery - Early Years Attendance Policy

September 2025

Introduction

Regular attendance is crucial for children's development and well-being in their early years. This policy outlines our expectations for attendance, procedures for reporting absences, and the actions we will take in cases of unexplained or prolonged absences. We are committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all children in our care.

Expectations for Attendance

We expect children to attend their scheduled sessions regularly and punctually. Parents/carers are responsible for ensuring their child's attendance. If a child is unable to attend, parents/carers must notify us as soon as possible.

Reporting Absences

Parents/carers must notify the Academy of their child's absence by 8:30 AM on the day of the absence. Absences can be reported by:

- Telephone: 01622 250040
- Email: info@bearsted.latrust.org.uk
- In person to a staff member.

When reporting an absence, please provide the child's full name, reason for absence (e.g., illness, appointment) and the expected duration of absence.

Unexplained Absences

If a child is absent without notification by 9:30 AM, we will attempt to contact the parent/carer using the primary contact number provided. If we are unable to reach the parent/carer, we will attempt to contact the secondary emergency contact provided. All contact attempts and

outcomes will be recorded in the child's attendance record. If we are unable to make contact and have concerns about the child's welfare, we will follow our safeguarding procedures.

Prolonged Absences

A prolonged absence is defined as 2 consecutive sessions of absence without a valid explanation. If a child is absent for a prolonged period, we will: Make repeated attempts to contact parents/carers and emergency contacts. Send a written communication (e.g., email or letter) to the parent/carer. Consider a home visit, if appropriate and following internal procedures which could include the withdrawal of the child's nursery placement. Consult with our safeguarding lead if there are concerns about the child's welfare.

Illness

If your child is unwell, please keep them at home to prevent the spread of infection. * Please inform us of any contagious illnesses, such as chickenpox, measles, or COVID-19. * Children should not return to the setting until they are symptom-free for 48 hours or as advised by a medical professional.

Late Arrival/Early Collection

Please inform us if your child will be arriving late or collected early. Late arrivals can disrupt the learning environment, so we encourage punctuality. Only authorised persons can collect children. Please inform us of any changes to collection arrangements.

Safeguarding

Staff are trained to identify and respond to safeguarding concerns. Any concerns about a child's welfare will be reported to the designated safeguarding lead. We will follow our safeguarding procedures and work with relevant authorities as necessary.

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or as needed to ensure its effectiveness and compliance with relevant legislation.

Review: September 2026