

Laundry Policy

1. Policy Statement

At Peques, we maintain high standards of hygiene, cleanliness and infection control to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of children, staff and the nursery environment.

Laundry procedures form an important part of our infection control arrangements. We handle, store and launder bedding, soft furnishings, cloths and other washable nursery items safely in order to reduce the risk of cross-contamination and maintain a clean and hygienic setting.

Where natural or alternative laundry products are used, we ensure that they are handled, stored, labelled and used in a way that supports health and safety requirements, COSHH compliance and effective hygiene control.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- all staff involved in handling or processing laundry
- the housekeeper and any other designated staff responsible for preparing or using laundry products
- all nursery laundry processes carried out on site
- bedding, blankets, cleaning cloths and other washable nursery fabrics
- the handling of clean, used or soiled laundry items

3. Responsibilities

At Peques, we ensure that appropriate laundry arrangements are in place to support hygiene, infection control and safe working practice.

The Manager oversees implementation of this policy and ensures that staff understand the nursery's laundry and hygiene procedures.

The housekeeper, or other designated staff member, prepares and uses laundry products safely, follows storage and labelling requirements, and maintains hygienic laundry practice.

All staff handle used or soiled items appropriately, follow hygiene procedures, and keep clean and soiled laundry separate.

4. Laundry Detergent

The nursery uses a homemade, all-natural laundry detergent, prepared using the following formulation:

- 3 parts bicarbonate of soda
- 3 parts sodium carbonate (washing soda)
- 1 part Himalayan salt
- 1 part Epsom salts

This detergent is used for all routine laundry.

5. Preparation of Detergent

All laundry detergent is prepared on-site by the housekeeper.

Preparation takes place:

- outside of nursery operational hours
- in a controlled and designated area

The housekeeper wears appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) during preparation, including:

- gloves
- face mask

6. Use of Hydrogen Peroxide

A cup of hydrogen peroxide is added to washes:

- when items are soiled
- when washing cleaning cloths

This supports effective hygiene and additional hygiene control.

7. Storage and Safety of Ingredients

To ensure safe handling and compliance with health and safety requirements:

- all ingredients are stored:
 - in their original containers, or
 - in appropriately labelled containers with COSHH/CLP-compliant hazard labelling
- labels clearly identify:
 - the substance
 - any associated hazards
 - safe handling requirements
- the nursery maintains a Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for every ingredient used
- all safety information is kept on file

8. Washing Temperatures

All bedding and cleaning cloths are washed at 60°C, in line with NHS hygiene guidance, to ensure effective removal of bacteria and contaminants.

9. Laundry Procedures

Bedding

- sheets are washed daily
- blankets are washed weekly
- blankets are allocated to individual children for the duration of the week to prevent cross-contamination

Cleaning Cloths

- cleaning cloths are washed daily at 60°C
- cleaning cloths are washed separately where appropriate to maintain hygiene standards

10. On-Site Laundry

All laundry is carried out on-site to ensure:

- full control over hygiene standards
- consistency in cleaning processes
- immediate response to soiling or contamination

11. Infection Control

- soiled items are handled safely and washed promptly
- staff follow appropriate hygiene practices when handling laundry
- separate storage is used for:
 - clean laundry
 - soiled laundry

12. Environmental Commitment

Peques Nursery is committed to reducing chemical exposure and environmental impact by:

- using natural cleaning laundry detergent
- avoiding unnecessary harsh chemicals
- maintaining safe and effective hygiene practices

13. Linked Policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- Health and Safety Policy
- Risk Assessment Policy
- Infection Control Policy
- Cleaning Policy
- Sleeping Policy
- Nappy Changing Policy
- Children's Clothes Soiling Policy
- Kitchen and Food Hygiene Policy
- Allergies Policy and Procedure
- Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedure

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Approval route: Head Office