



ABSENCE FROM WORK AND LATENESS

Attendance

You should arrive at work in sufficient time to actually start working at your normal starting time. Whilst we understand that on limited occasions, unexpected occurrences may impact your ability to attend work, or may cause you to arrive late. Lateness and absence have an adverse impact to both the business and other employees and we trust that you will take a positive approach to punctuality and attendance at work.

Reporting Absence or Lateness

If you are unable to attend work, or get to work by your expected starting time, you should notify the Management Team (Manager or Assistant Manager) personally as soon as possible and no later than 8.30am, to allow us to take the necessary action to cover your absence and minimise any impact it may have.

If these individuals are unavailable, ensure you speak with another member of the management team.

You should inform the Management Team of the reason for your absence and how long you expect to be away from work, they will then log this on the online absence system. We will then agree with you any further reporting procedures you may need to comply with prior to your return to work.

You should always report your absence yourself by telephone. You should not ask another person to call on your behalf and you should not notify us by text message, email or any other medium.

Failure to abide by the absence reporting procedures will normally be considered unauthorised absence and may result in the employee being liable to loss of pay for the period of absence and to disciplinary action.

This will not normally be remedied by the subsequent receipt of a back-dated medical certificate.



Fit Notes

Your doctor may feel that it is appropriate to suggest that whilst you are unable to carry out your job in its current form, you may be fit for work with some adjustments. If so, we will discuss your doctor's recommendations with you, where possible and if necessary we will consider reasonable adjustments.

Returning to Work

You should notify the Management Team the day before your return to allow us to give sufficient notice to cancel any arrangements we may have made with any individual to cover your workload during your absence. If you arrive for work without such notification, we may send you home from work for the day without pay.

If you have been suffering from any contagious or infectious disease you should ensure that your doctor is happy for you to return before you do so.

Upon your return to work you will be required to attend a return to work interview.

If we feel that your lateness and/or absence are unacceptable, we may invoke the disciplinary process, which could ultimately lead to your dismissal.

Absence Due to Sickness or Injury

If you are absent for a period in excess of seven calendar days, (irrelevant if these constitute your normal working days or not) you should provide us with a medical certificate from your GP or other relevant medical practitioner. Such medical certificates should then be forwarded to us on a regular basis to cover the whole period of your absence. If your absence is for a period of seven calendar days or less, you will be required to complete a Self-Certification of Absence form on the first day of your return to work.

The above documentation is required regardless of whether or not you qualify for any payment during your absence.

Dependent upon your circumstances, you may be eligible for SSP during your absence, in line with current legislation. However, if you fail to follow our procedures for reporting and certifying your absence without good reason, we may withhold payment of SSP Payments and/or any contractual sick and injury payments and/or may treat it as a disciplinary matter.

Submission of medical certificates, although validating your reason for absence, will not necessarily prevent us from taking appropriate action, including invoking the disciplinary process, if we feel your cumulative absence from work is excessive.



Depending upon the circumstances of your absence/s from work, we may ask you to allow us to approach your GP or another member of the medical profession with a view to obtaining further information on your condition. We may then consider if there are any reasonable adjustments which we could implement to help you to improve your attendance. It may be necessary, if acceptable solutions cannot be found, to terminate your employment with us, in line with current legislation.

If you qualify for SSP this will be paid to you at times and in the manner you would normally receive your pay. Failure to supply the relevant certification of absence will result in non-payment of SSP. The first three days of absence in any 56 day period are 'waiting days' and as such will not command any payment of SSP.

If you pursue a claim for compensation from any person, company or other entity for the injury or illness you incurred, you should consider including loss of income in the claim as we reserve the right to recover any SSP we made to you during your absence from work from any compensation which may be awarded to you.

Time Off for Medical Appointments

If you need to visit the doctor or dentist, wherever possible, you should arrange the appointment outside of your normal working hours. If the doctor or dentist cannot facilitate this then the appointment should be made as close to your starting or finishing time as possible or taken as annual leave subject to the holiday booking procedures.

You should discuss the absence with the Nursery Manager and give us as much notice as possible of your intended absence from work. Whilst we appreciate that this is not always possible with an emergency GP appointment, you would normally be given adequate notice to attend other kinds of appointments. Other than for emergency appointments you should provide us with a copy of your appointment card, letter etc. In the event of an emergency appointment we may ask you to provide evidence of your appointment so that we can monitor your on-going welfare.

Such time off will normally be without pay.

Time Off for Dependants

There may be occasions when you need to take a reasonable amount of time off during working hours to deal with unforeseen matters and emergencies relating to a dependant. A dependant could be a spouse, partner, child, parent, or someone who depends on you for care.



The leave can be taken for example to:

- Deal with a breakdown in childcare
- To put longer term care in place for children or elderly relatives; or
- If a dependant falls ill or is taken into hospital.

You have a statutory right to a reasonable amount of time off to deal with any such matter. The legislation does not prescribe what amount of time is reasonable but does suggest that in most cases a day or two will be sufficient to deal with the immediate crisis. If you wish to take time off work you must speak to the Nursery Manager to discuss your situation and agree a reasonable amount of time away from work, which will normally be without pay.

Time Off for Parental Leave

If you have at least twelve months service with us and you wish to exercise your right to take parental leave, please speak to the Nursery Manager who will advise you further regarding your entitlement and agree the time off at a time agreeable to both you and the nursery. Parental Leave is unpaid leave.

Time Off for Maternity

If you become pregnant, we recommend that you speak to the Nursery Manager in confidence as soon as you are aware of your condition. Your safety and that of your unborn child are important to us and we would want to look at any adjustments we may need to make to your work or working conditions to help ensure that you are both kept safe.

We would also ensure that you were made fully aware of both your obligations and entitlements at an early stage, to help you plan.

Time Off When Adopting a Child

If you are adopting a child, you may be entitled to time away from work on adoption leave and may qualify for Statutory Adoption Pay. If you are adopting a child, the Nursery Manager will be able to advise you of your rights and obligations.

Time Off for Paternity Leave

If your partner is pregnant or you are both adopting a child, you may be entitled to take time away from work, which dependent upon your circumstances may command Statutory Paternity Pay. Please speak to the Nursery Manager who will explain in full your obligations and your rights.



Shared Parental Leave

Should you wish to exercise your right to Shared Parental Leave, you should contact the Nursery Manager who will discuss your individual entitlements should you meet the eligibility requirements.

Time Off for Bereavement

In the sad event of a bereavement of a member of your immediate family, please discuss your circumstances with the Nursery Manager and agree appropriate time away from work. Pay for such time off is discretionary.

Signed on behalf of My Sunshine Day Nursery by Harriet Ballardie (Nursery Manager)	Date Policy Disseminated to Staff	Date for next Policy review
	16 April 2021	February 2022