# STRATTON PLAYGROUP

# 8 Pest Control Policy & Procedure

## Statement of intent

At Stratton Playgroup, we believe that the health and safety of children is of paramount importance. We make our playgroup a safe and healthy place for children, parents, staff and volunteers. Pests can cause harm or injury to humans and other animals, and can contaminate food, spread disease, destroy food and damage property.

## Aim

We aim to prevent the spread of any illnesses or diseases which could result from pests in our playgroup or on our grounds.

**We Aim to Prevent Problems by:**

* Keeping food covered
* Storing food off the floor in appropriate containers
* Never leaving food outside (if food is in the tough spots, etc.; we ensure that it is brought in at the end of the session or cleared away)
* Checking deliveries carefully – pests can enter premises in packaging, vegetables, fruit, cereals and grain.
* Checking stored goods regularly and rotate stock.
* Reporting any damaged (torn, pierced or gnawed) packaging to the manager.
* Storing food waste in bins.
* Maintaining a clean workplace.
* Keeping door and window screens closed.
* Telling the manager about any holes in the building or around windows, doors or pipes.
* Regularly checking for signs of pests and reporting any sightings or evidence to the manager immediately.
* Our Health & Safety Officer regularly seeking information from the Environmental Health Department and the Health Authority to ensure that we keep up-to-date with the latest recommendations; and maintaining regular checks.
* On-going contract with pest control company.

## Investigation Methods

Any complaints must be investigated and actioned promptly in accordance with the procedure below:

* A full survey / risk assessment: checking for any evidence of hazards and risks indoors and outside.
* The committee would be informed immediately by the playgroup staff. They would then reach a decision along with the manager whether or not to close playgroup.
* Specify the action required, the timescales for action and person responsible for the action.

- Monitoring the complaint over a set period of time, agreed by the committee and manager; and contacting Cornwall Council and/or a reputable Pest Control Agency?

* Where necessary, organise a schedule for cleaning and disinfecting floors, work tops, tables, toys, equipment, dressing up clothes, furnishings, etc.
* If our playgroup were to close to children, staff would still come into work, to do the above cleaning.

This policy was adopted at an open committee meeting of Stratton Playgroup

Held on

**18/07/2023**

Signed on behalf of the committee