



## **St Nicolas Playgroup**

### **Health and safety procedures - Face painting and mehndi**

#### **1.0 Face paints**

- Children are face painted only if parents have given prior consent. Verbal consent is fine at events where parents are present.
- A child who does not want to have their face painted will not be made to continue.
- Children under two years of age are generally not fully face painted, however a nose and whiskers (or similar) are fine. Having an arm or hand-painted with a flower, star or butterfly is also an option for very young children who may not sit still.
- Children with open sores, rashes, or other skin conditions are not painted.
- Glitter-based face paints are not used on children under two years of age.
- Members of staff painting children's faces wash their hands before doing so, cover any cuts or abrasions and ensure they have the equipment they need close to hand.
- Only products with ingredients compliant with EU and FDA regulations are used.
- Clean water is used to wash brushes and sponges between children. Ideally, a sponge is used once only before being machine washed on a hot cycle.
- Staff face painting at an event ensures they have a comfortable chair or shoes if standing, to reduce the risk of back or neck strain. Face painting is an activity that can cause repetitive stress injuries; therefore, regular breaks must be taken at events such as fetes.

#### **2.0 Mehndi painting**

- Staff never mehndi paint children under three years old using henna/henna-based products.
- Parental permission must be gained before staff mehndi paint children over the age of three years old.
- Children prone to allergies, anaemic, or suffering from any illness that may compromise their immune system are never painted under any circumstances.
- Black henna is never used and only 100% natural red henna (diluted with water) is used on children.



- It is preferable that non-henna products are used to create mehndi patterns, but as the setting operates in an area where mehndi is practiced by families and the criteria above are followed then henna may be used.

### 3.0 Further guidance

Good Practice in Early Years Infection Control (Pre-school Learning Alliance 2009)

This policy was adopted December 2021

This policy was reviewed by:	The Manager	Signed
On:	Date: 21 August 2025	VE Evans
Date of next review:	Date: 21 August 2026	