



Infection Control Policy

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1. Aims and Objectives

This policy aims to provide the school community with guidance to help prevent the spread of infection by following consistent guidelines and procedures to safeguard pupils, staff and parents.

2. Principles

The Bridge School recognise that outbreaks of infection such as influenza, vomiting and diarrhoea are not new and cannot be predicted. However, the school can plan and prepare for any outbreaks and ultimately follow guidelines which may reduce the severity and speed of the spread.

Infections are likely to spread particularly rapidly in schools and as children may have no residual immunity, they could be amongst the groups worst affected. We recognise that closing the school may be necessary in exceptional circumstances in order to control an infection, however we will strive to remain open unless advised otherwise.

Good pastoral care includes promoting healthy living. School staff will give positive messages and will model correct procedures about health and well-being through lessons and through conversations with pupils.

3. Infection Control

Infections are usually spread from person to person by close contact, for example:

- Infected people can pass a virus to others through large droplets when coughing, sneezing or even talking within a close distance.
- Through, direct contact with an infected person: for example, if you shake or hold their hand, then touching your mouth, eyes or nose without first washing your hands.
- By touching objects such as door handles and light switches, that have previously been touched by an infected person, then touching your mouth, eyes or nose without first washing your hands.

Viruses can survive longer on hard surfaces than on soft or absorbent surfaces. Staff and pupils are given the following advices about how to reduce the risk of passing on infections to others:

- Hand washing is the single most important part of Infection Control in schools and nurseries;

- Wash your hands regularly and always after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose;
- Minimise contact between your hands and mouth/nose, unless you have just washed your hands;
- Cover your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing;

It is vital that sources of contamination are minimised as far as reasonably practicable in the school environment.

4. Minimising Sources of Contamination

- All staff complete Level 2 Food Hygiene and Safety Online Course as part of Induction
- Food which requires refrigeration is covered and stored at a temperature of 5C or below
- Fridge temperatures are checked daily and recorded
- Hands are washed before and after handling food
- Food storage and preparation areas are cleaned and disinfected regularly
- Aprons are worn when preparing food
- Cross-contamination reduced by the use of different chopping boards

5. Controlling the Spread of Infection

As part of the work within the school necessarily involves encountering bodily fluids, it is essential that the risk of infection be minimised by following sensible precautions known as 'Universal Precautions'. These refer to the practice of wearing appropriate, non-porous medical articles such as gloves, goggles, aprons or face shields to prevent the exposure to potential blood-borne pathogens.

Blood-borne pathogens such as Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, and HIV are all infections that can be transferred from person to person through body fluids.

Since staff are unable to know whether a pupil is infected without going through testing, each pupil should be assumed to be potentially infected and precautions taken.

Good Handwashing Procedures

- before and after the working day
- after using the toilet or helping a pupil use the toilet
- after sneezing or blowing your nose
- after contact with soiled equipment
- after removal of protective gloves
- before preparing or serving food/beverages
- when hands are visibly soiled

Wearing PPE

- Wearing gloves and plastic aprons when cleaning up blood, urine, vomit or faeces spillages.
- Cleaning the spillage area with hot water and detergent solution for floors, and disinfectant for hard surfaces.
- Wear gloves and plastic aprons when changing nappies/pads.
- Always wipe changing beds down with disinfectant after every use.

It is the school's responsibility to provide PPE for tasks being carried out, including any alternative products for staff who have allergies to such equipment as latex or soaps.

Waste Disposal

- Place soiled nappies/pads in appropriate bins.
- Use bins with foot operated opening mechanisms to prevent spread of infection.

- Hazardous waste such as sanitary towels, disposable nappies, incontinence pads will be emptied and removed.
- Waste will be placed in the appropriate bins within the building and removed each day by the Caretaker/Vertas Cleaning Staff, to the designated storage areas prior to removal by a contractor.

Classroom Resources

Toys can easily become contaminated with organisms from infected children, so it is important that a written schedule is in place for regular cleaning. The cleaning schedule should identify who, what, when and how toys should be cleaned and be monitored.

If toys are shared, it is strongly recommended that only hard toys are made available because they can be wiped clean after play. The condition of toys and equipment should be part of the monitoring process and any damaged item that cannot be cleaned or repaired should be discarded.

Soft modelling and play dough should be replaced regularly or whenever they look dirty and should be included in the schedule.

Sandpits should be securely covered when not in use to protect from animals contaminating the sand.

Sand should be changed regularly; 4 weekly for indoor sandpits and as soon as it becomes discoloured or malodorous for outdoor sandpits. Sand should be sieved (indoor) or raked (outdoor) regularly to keep it clean.

The tank should be washed with detergent and water, and dried before refilling with sand. Water play troughs or receptacles should be emptied, washed with detergent and hot water and dried and stored inverted when not in use. The water should be replenished either daily or twice daily when in use and it should always be covered when not in use.

Housekeeping Procedures: Cleanliness

The school buildings will be cleaned by the Cleaners under the direction of the Vertas contract, supplemented as necessary, by pupils/staff as part of practical lessons (e.g. after cookery, art etc.)

Cleaning associated with the provision of school meals will be undertaken by the Cook and her staff again in line with the contract supplied.

Cleaning sheets must be available in all rooms and signed when job completed.