

Infection Control Policy

St Joseph and St Bede RC Primary School



With **Christ** at the centre, our *Dream* is for **greatness** in our learning, to *Believe* in our **unique talents**, to be Guardians of **life & creation** and to *Achieve* a **better world**, by **living life to the full.**

Approved by: Mrs S. Prince and Curriculum, Standards and Welfare Committee

Date: May 2020

Last reviewed on: May 2020

Next review due by: May 2022

Rational

This document aims to provide the school community with guidance when preparing for, and in the event of an outbreak of an infection such as pandemic influenza. It contains a checklist of actions to aid planning and preparing for an outbreak of pandemic influenza and clarifies communication procedures.

Aims

This policy aims to provide the school community with guidance when preparing for, and in the event of an outbreak of an infection such as pandemic influenza. It contains a checklist of actions to aid planning and preparing for an outbreak of pandemic influenza and clarifies communication procedures.

Principles

The school recognises that infections such as influenza pandemics are not new. No-one knows exactly when the school will be faced with having to deal with a potentially contagious illness amongst its community. We recognise the need to be prepared.

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 pupils positive messages about health and well-being through lessons and through conversations with pupils.

Planning and Preparing

In the event of the school becoming aware that a pupil or member of staff has an infectious illness we would direct their parents/residential staff to report to their GP. Alternatively they may contact the school to advise us that a pupil or member of staff has sought medical attention and has been diagnosed as having an infectious illness. During an outbreak of an infectious illness such as pandemic influenza the school will seek to operate as normally as possible but will plan for higher levels of staff absence.

The decision on whether school should remain open or close will be based on medical evidence. This will be discussed with the Local Authority. It is likely that school will remain open but we recognise the fact that both the illness itself and the caring responsibilities of staff will impact staff absence levels. The school will close if lessons cannot be staffed or there is not adequate supervision for the children.

Students will be asked to complete work at home or at a local library using the schools online learning platforms Tapestry (EYFS) and SeeSaw (KS1 and KS2.)

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, and then touch your own mouth, eyes or nose without first washing your hands.
- By touching objects (e.g. door handles, light switches) that have previously been touched by an infected person, then touching your own mouth, eyes or nose without first washing your hands.
- Viruses can survive longer on hard surfaces than on soft or absorbent surfaces.
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Staff and pupils are given the following advice about how to reduce the risk of passing on infections to others:

- Wash your hands regularly, particularly after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose. Children will be taught the 'Catch it, bin it, kill it' slogan and practise this when needed.
- Minimise contact between your hands and mouth/nose, unless you have just washed your hands.
- Cover your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing.
- Do not attend school if you think you may have an infectious illness.
- If you feel ill during the day let your teacher know immediately. Parents/Residential Staff will be contacted if First Aiders feel pupils are not well enough to be in school.

These messages are promoted through Personal and Social Education lessons.

HAND WASHING IS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF INFECTION CONTROL IN SCHOOLS

Minimise sources of contamination

- We will ensure relevant staff have Food Hygiene Certificate or other training in food handling.
- We store food that requires refrigeration, covered and dated within a refrigerator, at a temperature of 5°C or below.
- We wash hands before and after handling food.
- We clean and disinfect food storage and preparation areas.
- Food is bought from reputable sources and used by recommended date.
- At least one member of the EYFS Team have a Food Hygiene Certificate.

To control the spread of infection

- We ensure good hand washing procedures (toilet, handling animals, soil, food)
- Children are encouraged to blow and wipe their own noses when necessary and to dispose of the soiled tissues hygienically.
- Ensure different cloths and towels are kept for different areas.
- We cover all cuts and open sores.
- Aprons are worn when preparing food.
- We wear protective clothing when dealing with intimate care. (e.g. gloves and aprons when needed)
- A protocol is in place that is followed regarding contact with blood and body fluids.
 - Gloves worn
 - Soiled articles sealed in a plastic bag
 - In EYFS, Sanitary Waste Disposal Unit is available
 - Staff aware of procedures for the prevention of HIV infection

To raise awareness of hygiene procedures

- Inform all attending adults of the existing procedures.
- Provide visual instructions where possible for ease of understanding
- In EYFS visual aids used in all bathrooms and sinks

To prevent cross-contamination

- Ensure that adults and children have separate toilet facilities.

During outbreaks of diarrhoea and/or vomiting the following should be auctioned:

- Children who have had diarrhoea and/or vomiting will not attend school for 48 hours.

If a child is unwell in school

- They should wait their classroom while their parents/carers are contacted.

To prevent the persistence and further spread of infection

- Be vigilant as to signs of infection persisting or recurring.

- Ask parents/carers to keep their child at home if they have an infection, and to inform the school as to the nature of the infection.
- Remind parents/carers not to bring a child to school who has been vomiting or had diarrhoea until at least 48 hours has elapsed since the last attack.

Farm visits

- Hand washing is essential throughout the visit and particularly after coming into contact with live stock.
- Hand washing stations are located on the outside of the farm, children and adults should use these before entering back into the school building.

Support for Staff, Pupils, Parents and Carers

- The school has a number of Qualified First Aiders who assess pupils and staff before recommending further action. Individuals who are believed to have an infectious illness are sent home and are advised to contact their GP or local hospital.
- Parents are advised to seek advice from NHS online if they feel their child is too unwell for school <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>
- The NHS website can be of further assistance with regards to managing infectious diseases. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/chapter-9-managing-specific-infectious-diseases>

Monitoring and Evaluating

- Staff and governors will evaluate the effectiveness of the policy and agree adjustments that may be necessary to address any current concerns. These will be shared with staff, parents/carers and pupils.

Appendices

1. Covid 19 Risk Assessment
2. Sickness Policy
3. Intimate Care Policy
4. Farm Risk Assessment