



**Romans Field School
Bradwell Village School
Priory Common School**

FEDERATION

Infection Control Policy

Last reviewed on: September 2022

Next review due: September 2023

INFECTION CONTROL POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

This policy has been written following guidance from Public Health England (Spotty Book) which covers the following topics:

- Hand hygiene
- Cleaning, disinfection and suitable facilities
- Dealing with spills of bodily fluids
- Management of cuts/abrasions and spills of blood
- Farm and countryside visits
- Sending pupils home

It also follows the Department of Education guidelines 'Coronavirus (COVID-19): implementing protective measures in education and childcare setting' (11th May 2020).

2. AIM AND OBJECTIVES

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.

3. PRINCIPLES

The schools in the Federation recognise 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 schools 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 wellbeing through lessons and through conversations with pupils.

4. 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 to report to their GP and inform the Milton Keynes Health and Safety Team. 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 Government's Health Protection Agency. 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. Pupils will be asked to complete work at home or at a local library using the school website or educational websites such

as 'BBC Bitesize', 'Education City' and 'Oak Academy'. During school closures, home learning packs will be provided for the pupils.

5. 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. Staff and students 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.
- 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 or if you show any signs of coronavirus.
- If you feel ill during the day go to the medical room. Parents/carers will be contacted if First Aiders feel you are not well enough to be in school.

These messages are promoted through posters around the school, in assemblies and through Personal and Social Education lessons.

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

Department for Education guidance (28th August 2020)

The system of controls: protective measures

Having assessed their risk, schools must work through the below system of controls, adopting measures to the fullest extent possible in a way that addresses the risk identified in their assessment, works for their school and allows them to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum for their pupils, including full educational and care support for those pupils who have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

If schools follow the guidance set out here they will effectively reduce risks in their school and create an inherently safer environment.

System of controls

This is the set of actions schools must take. They are grouped into 'prevention' and 'response to any infection' and are outlined in more detail in the following sections.

Prevention

- 1) Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school.
- 2) Use of face coverings in schools.
- 3) Clean hands thoroughly more often than usual.
- 4) Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.

- 5) Introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach.
- 6) Minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible.
- 7) Where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).

Numbers 1 to 5 must be in place in all schools, all the time.

Number 6 must be properly considered and schools must put in place measures that suit their particular circumstances.

Number 7 applies in specific circumstances.

Response to any infection

- 8) Engage with the NHS Test and Trace process.
- 9) Manage confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community.
- 10) Contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice.

Numbers 8 to 10 must be followed in every case where they are relevant.

To 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.

To control the spread of infection:

We ensure good hand washing procedures (toilet, handling animals, soil, and food).

Children are encouraged to blow and wipe their own noses when necessary and to dispose of the soiled tissues hygienically. We ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.

We keep a record of the washing of equipment.

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 accidents. (e.g. gloves and apron)

A protocol is in place that is followed regarding contact with blood and body fluids.

- Gloves and apron worn
- Soiled articles sealed in a plastic bag

To raise awareness of hygiene procedures we:

Inform all attending adults of the existing policy and procedures.

Insure that pupil induction includes this information.

Provide visual instructions where possible for ease of understanding.

To prevent cross-contamination we:

- Ensure that adults and children have separate toilet facilities.
- During outbreaks of diarrhoea and/or vomiting the following is actioned:

- The use of play dough is suspended until 48 hours after the symptoms end and the play dough used prior to the outbreak is disposed of.
- The use of play sand is suspended until 48 hours after the symptoms end and the sand used prior to the outbreak is disposed of.
- The use of water is suspended until 48 hours after the symptoms end and the water and water toys are thoroughly cleaned prior to use.
- Children who have had diarrhoea and/or vomiting are not be included in cooking for 48 hours.
- Children will stay at home for 48 hours after the vomiting/diarrhoea has stopped.

What happens if someone becomes unwell in school? (DfE August 2020)

If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough, loss of taste and smell or a high temperature in an education or childcare setting, they must be sent home and advised to follow the COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance. Anyone showing the coronavirus symptoms should also be tested.

If a child is awaiting collection, they should be moved, if possible to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door, depending on the age of the child and with appropriate adult supervision if required. Ideally, a window should be opened for ventilation. If it is not possible to isolate them, move them to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people.

If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they should use a separate bathroom if possible. The bathroom should be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before used by anyone else.

PPE should be worn by staff caring for the child while they await collection if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained (such as for a very young child or a child with complex needs).

In an emergency, call 999 if they are seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk. Do not visit the GP, pharmacy, urgent care centre or a hospital.

If a member of staff has helped someone who was unwell with a new, continuous cough or high temperature, they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves (and in which case, a test is available) or the child subsequently tests positive. They should wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell. Cleaning the affected area with normal household disinfectant after someone with symptoms has left will reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people.

To prevent the persistence and further spread of infection we:

- Ensure that dedicated sinks are clearly marked.
- Are vigilant as to signs of infection persisting or recurring.
- Ask parents 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.

6. SUPPORT FOR STAFF, STUDENTS, 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.

7. MONITORING AND EVALUATING

Senior 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.

This policy will be reviewed in line with any new government guidelines and it will reflect the advice available.