

Brook Primary School
Infection Control Policy

Aims 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 an infection and clarifies communication procedures.

Principals:

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.

(Appendix 1 - Infection Types, Guidance on Infection Control in Schools and Other Childcare Settings, September 2014)

Planning and Preparing:

In the event of the school becoming aware that a pupil or member of staff has an infectious illness we would inform the local health trust for advice and guidance. 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 pupils. Pupils will be asked to complete work at home using the school website or educational websites.

May 2020 – COVID-19 Pandemic:

Under the current Government arrangements for the Covid-19 pandemic, schools may be required to open to more children from June 1st 2020 if the infection rate (R) remains below 1 and the 5 key Government targets have been met. School will also remain open for Key worker children.

To ensure the safety of children, staff and families, necessary Local Authority risk assessments will be in place alongside more specific to Brook safety measures that have been carefully considered. These include:

- Reduced contact between children and staff – group sizes of 15 that will be kept away from other groups
- Allocation of the same staff to a group as far as possible
- Groups to remain in the same classroom throughout the day including isolated, staggered break times and lunch times
- Thorough cleaning - shared resources (if they cannot be individualised), frequent cleaning of surfaces that children touch, including toys
- Ensure frequent hand washing and hand sanitizing
- No use of outdoor equipment

Alongside the recommendations made in the risk assessments some basic principles can help to keep children, teachers and staff safe at school and help to stop the spread of this disease:

- Unwell pupils, teacher and other staff should not come into school and if they show any of the symptoms of COVID-19, then should self isolate alongside other members of their household for 14 days following the COVID-19: Guidance for households, including accessing testing.
- Staff and parents need to be aware of the basic information and guidance about COVID-19 and know the main symptoms as identified by the Government and NHS. These are:
 - High temperature
 - New, continuous cough
 - Loss or change to sense of smell or taste
- Staff and parents need to be aware of the basic information and guidance about **Kawasaki disease which is a condition that mainly affects children under the age of 5. It's also known as mucocutaneous lymph node syndrome.** The characteristic symptoms are a high temperature that lasts for 5 days or more, with:
 - a rash
 - swollen glands in the neck
 - dry, cracked lips
 - red fingers or toes
 - red eyes
- Promote timely, clear and up to date information sharing with all stakeholders including regular monitoring or risk assessments in place
- Implement infection control in daily activities
- Highlight to staff and parents the importance of vigilance

However, School cannot guarantee that the recommended 2mtr social distancing rule can be adhered to at all times.

Infection Control:

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

- Infected people can pass a virus to others through 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 pupils are given the following advice about how to reduce the risk of passing on infections to others:

- Wash your hands when practicable 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.
- If pupils are ill during the day and need to go home. Parents will be contacted.

These messages are promoted through Personal and Social Education lessons.

(Appendix 2 – Good Hygiene Practice, Guidance on Infection Control in Schools and Other Childcare Settings, September 2014)

Support for Staff, Pupils and Carers:

The school does not have a full-time nurse who can assess pupils and staff before recommending further action. We have paediatric first aid trained staff who can advise, however. Individuals who are believed to have an infectious illness are sent home and are advised to contact their GP or local hospital.

Monitoring and Evaluating:

Senior staff and Governors will evaluate the effectiveness of the policy and agree adjustments that may be necessary to address any concerns.

Policy formulated May 2020

To be reviewed May 2022

Appendix 1:

Infection Types, Guidance on Infection Control in Schools and Other Childcare Settings, September 2014

Children with rashes should be considered infectious and assessed by their doctor.

Infection or complaint	Recommended period to be kept away from school, nursery or childminders	Comments
Athlete's foot	None	Athlete's foot is not a serious condition. Treatment is recommended
Chickenpox	Until all vesicles have crusted over	<i>See: Vulnerable Children and Female Staff – Pregnancy</i>
Cold sores, (Herpes simplex)	None	Avoid kissing and contact with the sores. Cold sores are generally mild and self-limiting
German measles (rubella)*	Four days from onset of rash (as per " <u>Green Book</u> ")	Preventable by immunisation (MMR x2 doses). <i>See: Female Staff – Pregnancy</i>
Hand, foot and mouth	None	Contact your local HPT if a large number of children are affected. Exclusion may be considered in some circumstances
Impetigo	Until lesions are crusted and healed, or 48 hours after starting antibiotic treatment	Antibiotic treatment speeds healing and reduces the infectious period
Measles*	Four days from onset of rash	Preventable by vaccination (MMR x2). <i>See: Vulnerable Children and Female Staff – Pregnancy</i>
Molluscum contagiosum	None	A self-limiting condition
Ringworm	Exclusion not usually required	Treatment is required
Roseola (infantum)	None	None
Scabies	Child can return after first treatment	Household and close contacts require treatment
Scarlet fever*	Child can return 24 hours after starting appropriate antibiotic treatment	Antibiotic treatment is recommended for the affected child

Slapped cheek/fifth disease. Parvovirus B19	None (once rash has developed)	<i>See: Vulnerable Children and Female Staff – Pregnancy</i>
Shingles	Exclude only if rash is weeping and cannot be covered	Can cause chickenpox in those who are not immune, ie have not had chickenpox. It is spread by very close contact and touch. If further information is required, contact your local PHE centre. <i>See: Vulnerable Children and Female Staff – Pregnancy</i>
Warts and verrucae	None	Verrucae should be covered in swimming pools, gymnasiums and changing rooms

3. Diarrhoea and vomiting illness

Infection or complaint	Recommended period to be kept away from school, nursery or childminders	Comments
Diarrhoea and/or vomiting	48 hours from last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting	
<i>E. coli</i> O157 VTEC Typhoid* [and paratyphoid*] (enteric fever) Shigella (dysentery)	Should be excluded for 48 hours from the last episode of diarrhoea. Further exclusion may be required for some children until they are no longer excreting	Further exclusion is required for children aged five years or younger and those who have difficulty in adhering to hygiene practices. Children in these categories should be excluded until there is evidence of microbiological clearance. This guidance may also apply to some contacts who may also require microbiological clearance. Please consult your local PHE centre for further advice
Cryptosporidiosis	Exclude for 48 hours from the last episode of diarrhoea	Exclusion from swimming is advisable for two weeks after the diarrhoea has settled

4. Respiratory infections

Infection or complaint	Recommended period to be kept away from school, nursery or childminders	Comments
Flu (influenza)	Until recovered	See: <i>Vulnerable Children</i>
Tuberculosis*	Always consult your local PHE centre	Requires prolonged close contact for spread
Whooping cough* (pertussis)	Five days from starting antibiotic treatment, or 21 days from onset of illness if no antibiotic treatment	Preventable by vaccination. After treatment, non-infectious coughing may continue for many weeks. Your local PHE centre will organise any contact tracing necessary

5. Other infections

Infection or complaint	Recommended period to be kept away from school, nursery or child minders	Comments
Conjunctivitis	None	If an outbreak/cluster occurs, consult your local PHE centre
Diphtheria *	Exclusion is essential. Always consult with your local HPT	Family contacts must be excluded until cleared to return by your local PHE centre. Preventable by vaccination. Your local PHE centre will organise any contact tracing necessary
Glandular fever	None	
Head lice	None	Treatment is recommended only in cases where live lice have been seen
Hepatitis A*	Exclude until seven days after onset of jaundice (or seven days after symptom onset if no jaundice)	In an outbreak of hepatitis A, your local PHE centre will advise on control measures

Hepatitis B*, C*, HIV/AIDS	None	Hepatitis B and C and HIV are bloodborne viruses that are not infectious through casual contact. For cleaning of body fluid spills see: <i>Good Hygiene Practice</i>
Meningococcal meningitis*/ septicaemia*	Until recovered	Meningitis C is preventable by vaccination There is no reason to exclude siblings or other close contacts of a case. In case of an outbreak, it may be necessary to provide antibiotics with or without meningococcal vaccination to close school contacts. Your local PHE centre will advise on any action is needed
Meningitis* due to other bacteria	Until recovered	Hib and pneumococcal meningitis are preventable by vaccination. There is no reason to exclude siblings or other close contacts of a case. Your local PHE centre will give advice on any action needed
Meningitis viral*	None	Milder illness. There is no reason to exclude siblings and other close contacts of a case. Contact tracing is not required
MRSA	None	Good hygiene, in particular handwashing and environmental cleaning, are important to minimise any danger of spread. If further information is required, contact your local PHE centre
Mumps*	Exclude child for five days after onset of swelling	Preventable by vaccination (MMR x2 doses)
Threadworms	None	Treatment is recommended for the child and household contacts
Tonsillitis	None	There are many causes, but most cases are due to viruses and do not need an antibiotic

* denotes a notifiable disease. It is a statutory requirement that doctors report a notifiable disease to the proper officer of the local authority (usually a consultant in communicable disease control). In addition, organisations may be required via locally agreed arrangements to inform their local PHE centre. Regulating bodies (for example, Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED)/Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI)) may wish to be informed – please refer to local policy.

Outbreaks: if an outbreak of infectious disease is suspected, please contact your local PHE centre.

6. Good hygiene practice

Handwashing

Handwashing is one of the most important ways of controlling the spread of infections, especially those that cause diarrhoea and vomiting, and respiratory disease. The recommended method is the use of liquid soap, warm water and paper towels. Always wash hands after using the toilet, before eating or handling food, and after handling animals. Cover all cuts and abrasions with waterproof dressings.

Coughing and sneezing

Coughing and sneezing easily spread infections. Children and adults should be encouraged to cover their mouth and nose with a tissue. Wash hands after using or disposing of tissues. Spitting should be discouraged.

Personal protective equipment (PPE)

Disposable non-powdered vinyl or latex-free CE-marked gloves and disposable plastic aprons must be worn where there is a risk of splashing or contamination with blood/body fluids (for example, nappy or pad changing). Goggles should also be available for use if there is a risk of splashing to the face. Correct PPE should be used when handling cleaning chemicals.

Cleaning of the environment

Cleaning of the environment, including toys and equipment, should be frequent, thorough and follow national guidance. For example, use colour-coded equipment, COSHH and correct decontamination of cleaning equipment. Monitor cleaning contracts and ensure cleaners are appropriately trained with access to PPE.

Cleaning of blood and body fluid spillages

All spillages of blood, faeces, saliva, vomit, nasal and eye discharges should be cleaned up immediately (always wear PPE). When spillages occur, clean using a product that combines both a detergent and a disinfectant. Use as per manufacturer's instructions and ensure it is effective against bacteria and viruses and suitable for use on the affected surface. Never use mops for cleaning up blood and body fluid spillages – use disposable paper towels and discard clinical waste as described below. A spillage kit should be available for blood spills.

Laundry

Laundry should be dealt with in a separate dedicated facility. Soiled linen should be washed separately at the hottest wash the fabric will tolerate. Wear PPE when handling soiled linen. Children's soiled clothing should be bagged to go home, never rinsed by hand.

Clinical waste

Always segregate domestic and clinical waste, in accordance with local policy. Used nappies/pads, gloves, aprons and soiled dressings should be stored in correct clinical waste bags in foot-operated bins. All clinical waste must be removed by a registered waste contractor. All clinical waste bags should be less than two-thirds full and stored in a dedicated, secure area while awaiting collection.

Sharps disposal

Sharps should be discarded straight into a sharps bin conforming to BS 7320 and UN 3291 standards. Sharps bins must be kept off the floor (preferably wall-mounted) and out of reach of children.

Sharps injuries and bites

If skin is broken, encourage the wound to bleed/ wash thoroughly using soap and water. Contact GP or occupational health or go to A&E immediately. Ensure local policy is in place for staff to follow. Contact your local HPT for advice, if unsure.

Animals

Animals may carry infections, so hands must be washed after handling any animals. Health and Safety Executive (HSE) guidelines for protecting the health and safety of children should be followed.

Animals in school (permanent or visiting)

Ensure animals' living quarters are kept clean and away from food areas. Waste should be disposed of regularly, and litter boxes not accessible to children. Children should not play with animals unsupervised. Veterinary advice should be sought on animal welfare and animal health issues and the suitability of the animal as a pet. Reptiles are not suitable as pets in schools and nurseries, as all species carry salmonella.

Visits to farms

Please contact your local environmental health department, which will provide you with help and advice when you are planning a visit to a farm or similar establishment. For more information see <http://www.face-online.org.uk/resources/preventing-or-controlling-ill-health-from-animal-contact-at-visitor-attractions-industry-code-of-practice>

Vulnerable children

Some medical conditions make children vulnerable to infections that would rarely be serious in most children, these include those being treated for leukaemia or other cancers, on high doses of steroids and with conditions that seriously reduce immunity. Schools and nurseries and childminders will normally have been made aware of such children. These children are particularly vulnerable to chickenpox, measles or parvovirus B19 and, if exposed to either of these, the parent/carer should be informed promptly and further medical advice sought. It may be advisable for these children to have additional immunisations, for example pneumococcal and influenza.

Female staff – pregnancy

If a pregnant woman develops a rash or is in direct contact with someone with a potentially infectious rash, this should be investigated according to PHE guidelines by a doctor. The greatest risk to pregnant women from such infections comes from their own child/children, rather than the workplace. Some specific risks are:

- chickenpox can affect the pregnancy if a woman has not already had the infection. Report exposure to midwife and GP at any stage of exposure. The GP and antenatal carer will arrange a blood test to check for immunity. Shingles is caused by the same virus as chickenpox, so anyone who has not had chickenpox is potentially vulnerable to the infection if they have close contact with a case of shingles
- German measles (rubella). If a pregnant woman comes into contact with german measles she should inform her GP and antenatal carer immediately to ensure investigation. The infection may affect the developing baby if the woman is not immune and is exposed in early pregnancy
- slapped cheek disease (parvovirus B19) can occasionally affect an unborn child. If exposed early in pregnancy (before 20 weeks), inform whoever is giving antenatal care as this must be investigated promptly
- measles during pregnancy can result in early delivery or even loss of the baby. If a pregnant woman is exposed she should immediately inform whoever is giving antenatal care to ensure investigation

This advice also applies to pregnant students.