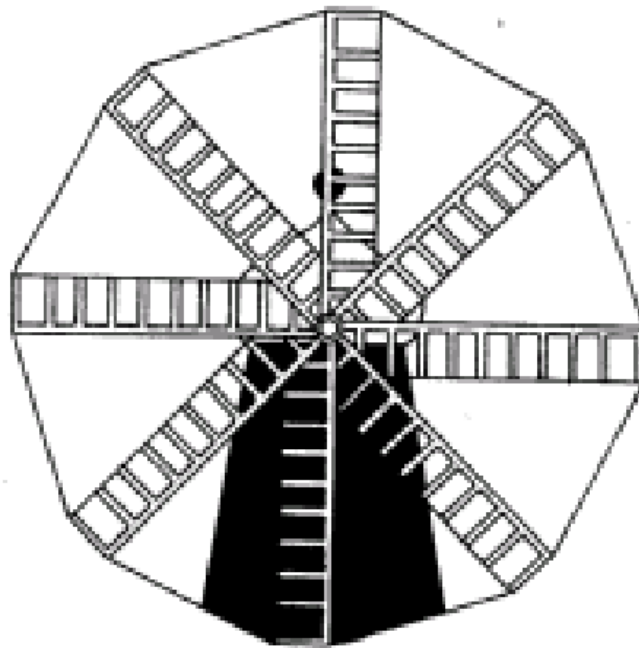


# Infection Control Policy

## Heckington St. Andrew's C of E Primary School

Respect + Responsibility + Relationships + Resilience + Reverence  
Five Rs = Ready for Life

“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” John 10:10



**Approved by:** Finance & Premises Committee

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## 1. 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. It contains a checklist of actions to aid planning and preparing for an outbreak of an infectious disease and clarifies communication procedures.

## 2. 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 the 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.

## 3. Planning and Preparing

In the event of the school becoming aware that a pupil or member of staff have an infectious illness, we would direct their parents to report to their GP. Alternatively, we may be informed 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, 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 closed 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 on staff absence levels. The school will close if lessons cannot be staffed or there is not adequate supervision for children.

## 4. 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 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 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.
- If you feel ill during the school day, your teacher will send you to the office. Parents will be contacted if First Aiders feel you are not well enough to be in school.

These messages are promoted around school through posters, in assemblies and through PSHE lessons.

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

### **Minimising source of contamination**

- We will ensure relevant staff have Food Hygiene Certificates 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 the 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 different cloths and towels are kept for different areas.
- We cover all cuts and open sores.
- Aprons are worn when preparing or serving food.
- We wear protective clothing (e.g. gloves) when dealing with accident.
- A protocol is in place that is followed regarding contact with blood and body fluids:
  - Gloves are worn
  - Soiled articles sealed in a plastic bag
  - Use of .....bin

### **To raise awareness of hygiene procedures**

- Inform all attending adults of the existing policy and procedures.
- Ensure that induction covers this information.
- Provide visual instructions where possible for ease of understanding

### **To prevent cross-contamination**

- Ensure that adults and children have separate toilet facilities.

### **During outbreaks of diarrhoea and/or vomiting the following should be actioned:**

- The use of equipment should be suspended until 48 hours after the symptoms end to prevent further spread.
- The tables and equipment in the classroom where there has been a breakout should be disinfected by cleaning staff.
- Children who have had diarrhoea and/or vomiting should not be included in cooking for 48 hours.

### **If a child is unwell in school**

- They should wait near the school office until they are collected by their parents or carers. They should be closely monitored by school staff.

### **To prevent the persistence and further spread of infection:**

- Be 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 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.

## **5. 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.

## **6. 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. These will be shared with staff, parents/carers and pupils.