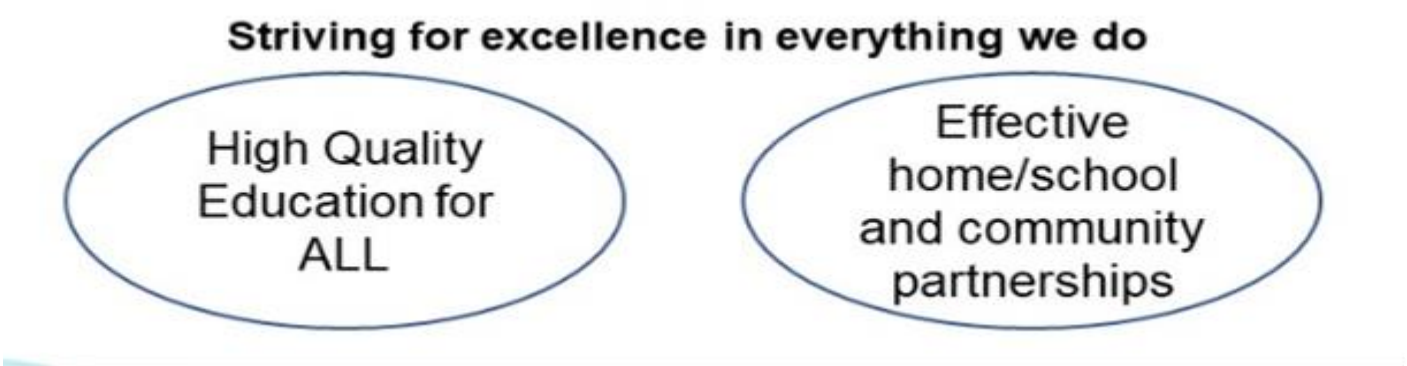
INFECTION CONTROL POLICY

Our Shared Vision



Equality Mission Statement

We are committed to ensuring equality of educational opportunity and support for all pupils, parents, carers, staff and visitors irrespective of age, sex, race, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation, pregnancy, gender reassignment, and socio-economic background. We aim to provide a fully inclusive school in which every person feels proud of their identity and is able to participate fully within the school community. We believe that a diverse school community is a strength which should be respected and celebrated by all those who learn, teach and visit here.

Approved by: Estate & Financial Management Committee	**Date:**
Signature (Chair):	**Signature (Headteacher):**

Last reviewed on: November 2026	**Next review date:** November 2027

A copy of this policy is available on the school website and a signed copy is held on file.

To be read in conjunction with:

- Health & Safety Policy
- Bodily Fluids Policy

1 INTRODUCTION

This policy has been written following the COVID19 pandemic and reflects the school's position on infection control on all occasions,

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 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. We follow recommendations from Public Health England and use their information sharing and advice to inform any decisions taken.

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.

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 them or their parents to contact their GP and Public Health England. 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. Students will be asked to complete work at home or at a local library using the school website or educational websites such as 'BBC Bitesize' and 'Education City'.

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.
- If you feel ill during the day go to the medical room. Parents 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 ISTHE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF INFECTION CONTROL IN SCHOOLS AND NURSERIES

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, food)
- Children are encouraged to blow and wipe their own noses when necessary and to dispose of the soiled tissues hygienically.
- 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
    - Staff aware of procedures for the prevention of HIV infection
- Tooth brushes and toothpaste for each individual child are stored in individual bags

To raise awareness of hygiene procedures

- Inform all attending adults of the existing policy and procedures.
- Insure that student induction includes 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 play dough should be 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 should be suspended until 48 hours after the symptoms end and the sand used prior to the outbreak is disposed of.
- The use of water should be suspended until 48 hours after the symptoms end and the water and water toys should be thoroughly cleaned prior to use.
- 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 in the medical room until they are collected by their parents or carers. They should be closely monitored and should not wait in communal areas.

To prevent the persistence and further spread of infection

- Ensure that dedicated sinks are clearly marked.
- 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 24 hours (preferably 48 hours in extreme cases) 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 review and evaluate the effectiveness of the policy and agree adjustments that may be necessary to address any current concerns. This will be completed at least annually or when an incident concerned. These will be shared with staff, parents/carers and pupils, via the school website.