

Stanford Junior and Infant School



Illness and Infection Control Policy

*“Living Together,
Learning Together”*

Adopted by Governors – Sep 2017
Review due – Sep 2020

INTRODUCTION

This policy has been written in line with the current guidance from the Health Protection Agency and the Public Health Agency to provide a set of measures to reduce the spread of illness, through cross infection, in the school.

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

This policy aims to provide the school community with guidance when preparing for, and where possible preventing, the spread of infection within the school, covering ways of avoiding infection and communicable diseases, including hand washing, general hygiene and maintaining a clean environment.

PRINCIPLES

The school recognises that infections such as influenza 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 and good hand hygiene. School staff will give pupils positive messages about health and well-being through lessons and through conversations with pupils.

POLICY STATEMENT

The policy should be followed by all members of Stanford Junior & Infant staff.

It is the policy of Stanford Junior and Infant School to provide a happy and healthy environment for every child in our care. We take measures to prevent and minimize the spread of infection in our school.

To help achieve this we work in partnership with parents and carers. In order to protect the health of the children and staff, we will adhere to the following practices in line with current guidelines.

SCOPE

This policy is designed to help to prevent the spread of infections and communicable diseases *within the school* where practicable and possible.

PLANNING AND PREPARING

In the event of the school becoming aware that a significant number of pupils or members of staff have an infectious illness we would immediately consult with the Local Authority and the Public Health Agency and inform parents of their advice.

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 Public Health 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 we cannot provide adequate supervision for the children. Students will be asked to complete work at home from their home learning books, or from work and suitable links uploaded to the class pages of the school website.

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.

These messages are promoted in assemblies and through lessons such as science and SMSC.

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 degrees 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 wear protective clothing when dealing with accidents. (e.g. gloves)

Hand washing

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

The recommended method is the use of liquid soap, warm water and paper towels. The use of non-medicated soap, provided in a soap dispenser is encouraged. Harsher soap which contains

antiseptic (unless required under specific circumstances) should not be used as this can make hand very dry and potentially chapped, increasing the risk of infection. Hands should always be washed after using the bathroom, before eating or handling food and after handling animals. All cuts and abrasions should be covered with a water proof dressing.

Cleaning

Cleaning of body fluid spillage - all spillage of vomit, saliva, nasal and eye discharge, blood and faeces should be cleaned up immediately. Disposable gloves and disposable plastic aprons must be worn. When spillage occurs, clean using a product that combines both a detergent and a disinfectant.

GUIDELINES

In order to prevent the spread of infections in school we follow the guidelines set by the Public Health Agency, regarding the recommended period of time that pupils should be absent from school.

A summary of the most common conditions and recommended periods of absence are shown below.

DIARRHOEA AND VOMITING ILLNESS:

Illness/Condition	Recommended Period of Absence
Diarrhoea and/or Vomiting	48 hours from the last episode
E Coli 0157	48 hours from the last episode
Typhoid	48 hours from the last episode
Shigella (dysentery)	48 hours from the last episode
Cryptosporidiosis	48 hours from the last episode

RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS:

Illness/Condition	Recommended Period of Absence
Influenza	Until Recovered
Tuberculosis	Exclusion until permitted by GP
Whooping Cough	5 days from commencing antibiotics or 21 days from onset of illness if no antibiotic treatment.

RASHES & SKIN INFECTIONS:

Illness/Condition	Recommended Period of Absence
Athlete's Foot	None
Chicken Pox	5 days from onset of rash
Cold Sores	None
German Measles (Rubella)	6 days from onset of rash
Hand, Foot & Mouth	None
Impetigo	Until lesions are crusted or healed
Measles	4 days from onset of rash
Ringworm	None
Roseola	None

Scabies	Pupils can return after the first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after commencing antibiotics
Slapped Cheek	None
Warts & Verrucae	None
Shingles	Exclude only if rash is weeping and cannot be covered

OTHER INFECTIONS:

Illness/Condition	Recommended Period of Absence
Conjunctivitis	None
Diphtheria	Exclusion until permitted by GP
Glandular Fever	None
Head lice	None
Hepatitis A	Exclusion until permitted by GP
Hepatitis B or C	None
Meningococcal Meningitis/Septicaemia	Until Recovered
Bacterial Meningitis	Until Recovered
Viral Meningitis	None
Mumps	5 days from onset of swollen glands
Threadworms	None
Tonsillitis	None

OTHER CONDITIONS:

Wounds - if a child has an infected or oozing wound, it must be covered by a well-sealed dressing.

Head Lice - are a common contagious infestation in children, particularly those of primary school age. However, the presence of a head lice infestation is not a public health threat. The primary responsibility for the detection and the treatment of head lice lies with the parents of the pupil. In the event that live head louse are found, a letter will be sent to parents advising this. Parents will be asked to take their child from school for appropriate treatment. If only nits (eggs) are found a letter will be sent home.

A notification will be sent out to parents of pupils in the same year group to advise them to be vigilant to the possibility of head lice. Over use of an alert letter can lead to the perception that there is a serious 'outbreak' of head lice leading to alarm and unwarranted concern. A parent's information guideline will be made available for parents to explain about head lice.

Signed By



Chair of Governors:

Date: 28th September 2017



Headteacher:

Date: 28th September 2017