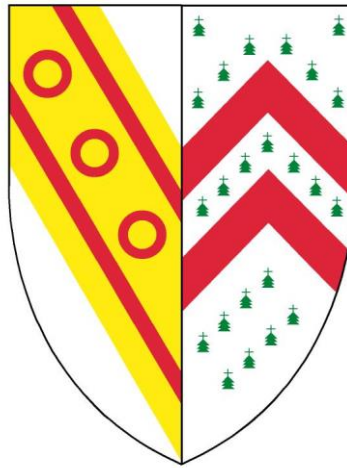


Pollington-Balne CE Primary School



Infection Control Policy

Adopted by Governors: May 2020

To be reviewed: May 2022

Achieving and Aspiration – *a school in which children aspire to achieve their personal potential.*

Belonging and Becoming – *a place in which strong roots enable personal flourishing.*

Care and Community – *a school that is from and for the community*

Pollington-Balne CE Primary School

INFECTION CONTROL POLICY

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

This policy aims to provide the school community with guidance when preparing for, and in the event of an outbreak of a significant infection such as pandemic influenza or any contagious illness. The school will follow guidance issued by official bodies (for example - HM Government, Department for Education, Local Authority) when dealing with such an outbreak.

See Appendix for specific advice relating to the COVID-19 pandemic

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 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.

PLANNING AND PREPARING

In the event of the school becoming aware that a pupil or member of staff has a significant infectious illness we would direct their parents to report to their GP and inform Public Health Enquiries at [East Riding Yorkshire Council](#).

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 and the Local Authority.

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 using the school website or educational websites such as 'BBC Bitesize'.

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 school day, tell an adult. Parents will be contacted if we feel you are not well enough to be in school

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

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 cover all cuts and open sores
- We wear protective clothing when dealing with accidents. (e.g. gloves)
- A protocol is in place regarding contact with blood and bodily fluids
 - Gloves are worn
 - Soiled articles are sealed in a plastic bag

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.
- If they are assessed to be too unwell to be in school, parents/carers will be contacted and asked to collect their child.

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 24 hours has elapsed since the last attack. This may be increased to 48 hours.

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

Detailed information about many conditions is available at:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/south/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2019/09/spotty-book-2019-.pdf>

Farm visits

Hand washing is essential throughout the visit and particularly after coming into contact with live stock.

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 NHS111 online, their GP or local hospital.

Appendix

Coronavirus (COVID-19): implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings – Department for Education - updated 12 May 2020

Effective infection protection and control

There are important actions that children and young people, their parents and those who work with them can take during the coronavirus outbreak, to help prevent the spread of the virus.

In all education, childcare and social care settings, preventing the spread of coronavirus involves dealing with direct transmission (for instance, when in close contact with those sneezing and coughing) and indirect transmission (via touching contaminated surfaces). A range of approaches and actions should be employed to do this. These can be seen as a hierarchy of controls that, when implemented, creates an inherently safer system, where the risk of transmission of infection is substantially reduced. These include:

- minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend childcare settings, schools or colleges
- cleaning hands more often than usual - wash hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered
- ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- cleaning frequently touched surfaces often using standard products, such as detergents and bleach
- minimising contact and mixing by altering, as much as possible, the environment (such as classroom layout) and timetables (such as staggered break times)

Amended First Aid Guidance COVID-19 May 2020

All first aid will be administered by a trained first aider.

Full PPE **must** be used to deal with all first aid issues including gloves, masks and an apron.

Adults must refrain from touching their face when dealing with an ill pupil.

The Music Room will be used as the First Aid Room until further notice. Windows must be open to ensure good ventilation. This room will be properly equipped with first aid equipment and PPE.

Where a pupil is able to walk unaided, first aid will be administered in the Music Room.

If a pupil has an injury PPE must be put on before dealing with the injury. If they can walk to the first aid room (Music room) then it can be dealt with there. If the pupil cannot be moved other people must be kept away from the area and follow social distancing rules. The first aider **must** put on PPE before dealing with the incident. A second adult will need to call the School Office for assistance.

If a pupil becomes unwell during the school day they must be moved immediately from the classroom and walk unaided to the Music Room. Social distancing rules need to be observed. They must be encouraged not to touch surfaces. The first aider must put on PPE before the pupil is given first aid. The adult must advise the School Office to ring parents immediately and the pupil will need to be collected from school as soon as possible.

If symptoms are those commonly associated with COVID-19 then adults must manage this with extra caution. PPE **must** be applied before a pupil is dealt with in the Music Room. SLT need to be notified as soon as possible. If the child needs to use the toilet while they are waiting to be collected, they should be directed to the Disabled Toilet. This toilet will then be thoroughly cleaned before being used by others.

As anyone over the age of 5 can have a COVID-19 test parents should be advised to have their child tested. No child should return to school until the result of the test is known.

Following any first aid incident with a sick pupil, the used PPE must be disposed of as soon as the pupil leaves the site. Adults need to put the PPE in a plastic bag, seal it and take it outside to be put in a decontamination box. After 72 hours the plastic bag with PPE can be disposed of in the normal refuse bins.

Adults must put on new PPE to clean the room/s and surfaces the pupil/adult have come into contact with.

Adults need to wash their hands thoroughly following an incident before returning to their role.

If, following the incident, the adult feels unwell and the symptoms are those associated with COVID-19, they must leave the school site and contact Mrs Foster or their GP to request a test. They should not return to school until the results of the test are known.