

## Infection Control Policy

Date	Review Date	Coordinator	Nominated Governor
October 2016	October 2017	Jan Murphy	

### 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 or any contagious illness

### Principles

The school recognizes 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.

Drapers' Pyrgo Priory recognizes 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 recognize 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 an infectious illness we would direct their parents to report to their GP and North East and North Central London Health Protection Team on 0207 811 7100

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 Health Protection Agency. It is likely that school will remain open but we recognize 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 or at a local library using the school website or educational websites such as 'Education City and Espresso'.

### Infection Control

#### *Understanding and information*

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.

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- 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 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 through posters around the school, in assemblies and through Personal and Social Education lessons.**

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

#### **Minimise source 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.
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#### **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 tissue hygienically.
- We wear protective clothing when dealing with accidents (e.g. gloves)

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

Detailed information about many conditions is available at <http://www.hpa.org.uk/>.

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

It is important to note that the school are unable to authorize absence on medical grounds or illness for conditions where the guidelines state that no period of absence is recommended; e.g. headlice.

**DIARRHOEA AND VOMITING ILLNESS:**

Illness / condition	Recommended period of absence
Diarrhoea and vomiting	48 hours from last episode
E Coli 1571	Exclusion and school to consult HPA
Typhoid and paratyphoid (Enteric fever)	Exclusion and school to consult HPA
Shigella (Dysentery)	Exclusion and school to consult HPA

**RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS:**

Illness / condition	Recommended period of absence
Influenza	Until recovered
Tuberculosis	Exclusion and school to consult HPA
Whooping Cough	5 days from commencing anti-biotics or 21 days from onset of illness if no anti-biotic treatment has been prescribed. In the latter situation we will require a doctor's note.

**RASHES AND SKIN INFECTIONS:**

Illness / condition	Recommended period of absence
Athletes foot	None
Chicken Pox	5 days from onset of rash/until spots have dried.
Cold Sores (Herpes)	None
German Measles (Rubella)	5 days from onset of rash
Hand, Foot and Mouth	None
Impetigo	Until lesions are crusted or healed
Measles	5 days from onset of rash
Ringworm	Until treatment is commenced
Roseola (Infantum)	None
Scabies	Pupil can return after first treatment
Scarlet Fever	5 days from commencing anti-biotics
Slapped Cheek	None
Warts and Verrucae	None
Shingles	Exclude only if rash is weeping and cannot be covered

**OTHER INFECTIONS:**

Illness / condition	Recommended period of absence
Conjunctivitis	Until treatment is commenced
Diphtheria	Exclusion essential and school to consult with HPA
Glandular Fever	None
Headlice	None
Hepatitis A	Exclusion and school to consult with HPA

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Hepatitis B or C	None
HIV / AIDS	None
Meningococcal Meningitis / Septicaemia	Until recovered
Bacterial Meningitis	Until recovered
Viral Meningitis	None
MRSA	None
Mumps	5 day from onset of swollen glands
Threadworms	None
Tonsillitis	None

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

- The use of play dough should be suspended until 48 hours after 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 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 diarrhea and/or vomiting should not be included in cooking for 48 hours.

**If a child is unwell in school**

Children should wait in the Medical Room until they are collected by their parents or carers.

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

- 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 diarrhea until at least 48 hours has elapsed since the last attack.

**Farm Visits**

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

**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.

<b>Headteacher:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	
<b>Chair of Governing Body:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	