

Infection Control Guidelines



What is infection control?

Infection control is concerned with the hygiene practices and the precautions that all practitioners take to prevent the spread of germs and the actions taken to control the spread of infection.

Here are five steps Greenhaugh Primary School takes to help prevent the spread of infection in our school:

1. **Good basic personal hygiene** – in particular, we make sure that staff and children wash their hands whenever they are obviously dirty and in the following circumstances:

Before:

- starting/finishing work
- handling, preparing, serving or eating food,
- giving medication to a child or taking it yourself
- using a computer keyboard
- using musical instruments
- messy play activities such as dough, sand or water

After:

- touching anything that may be contaminated – including soiled clothing
- contact with blood or bodily fluids
- during an outbreak of diarrhoea and/or vomiting in the school
- blowing/wiping runny noses
- any cleaning procedure
- handling pets, pet cages or related items
- outdoor play activities
- PE activities
- after removing single-use or other protective gloves

2. **Cover existing wounds or skin lesions** - activities such as preparing and serving food, play dough, clay, looop, sand or water play should be avoided by staff and children if they have open wounds on their hands. Lesions caused by skin conditions such as eczema may be particularly aggravated by such activities. Gloves should be worn if it is necessary for a member of staff with such issues needs to be involved in these activities.

3. **We use appropriate single-use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** – this includes aprons and gloves for cleaning up vomit or blood or any activity that involves the risk of contamination. PPE, when used appropriately, protects staff from germs and splashing, but also protects children from contamination from staff clothing. PPE is often single-use and boxes of single-use gloves or aprons are usually marked. Extra PPE will be used in line with government guidelines and directives, such as face masks, during infection outbreaks or pandemics.

4. **We have a clear procedure for cleaning toys, equipment and the environment** - A regular cleaning schedule is essential in any school environment to prevent the spread of infection. Germs cannot thrive on clean, dry surfaces. Our cleaning schedule covers the equipment and resources in each area, how often it is cleaned and by which method. Our Caretaker is very thorough in her normal cleaning regime throughout the school and all our members of staff are always be prepared to clean up as they go along, using disposable paper towels for spillages of blood and/or bodily fluids, wearing gloves and plastic aprons, where appropriate. We use a range approved cleaning products.

The frequency of these cleans is increased during infection outbreaks. In some cases it may be necessary to close Greenhaugh Primary School, while a deep clean takes place which involves cleaning carpets, curtains and all surfaces including walls.

5. We understand and follow guidance for managing illness and infections – despite the best efforts of staff to prevent the spread of infection, it is inevitable that some children and staff will become poorly because many infections are contagious before any obvious symptoms appear.

Greenhaugh Primary School is not equipped to manage ‘sick’ children. As a general principle, children with an infection should be kept at home while they have symptoms or are feeling unwell. The same rules apply to staff too. We follow the national health exclusion guidelines for illnesses and we retain the right to ask parents to keep their children at home for longer periods than on the guidelines, to break infection spreading cycles.

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