



# Alexander Hosea Primary School

*'Roots to grow, wings to fly'*

## **Control of Infectious Diseases Policy (including Swine Flu)**

### **Introduction**

Schools and Early Years settings provide an environment where it is easier for infectious diseases to spread. Alexander Hosea Primary School will need to deal with staff/pupils with infectious diseases from time to time and in some cases will need to take steps to ensure certain pupils do not interact with staff.

### **Legal Background**

There is a requirement under the Health and Safety at Work Act to ensure the health and safety of persons at work and those affected by it.

### **Aims**

- To be prepared for cases of infectious diseases
- To implement measures to reduce the spread of infectious diseases among pupils and staff

### **Guidelines**

- A clean environment will be maintained.
- Children will be taught about good hygiene methods and reminders will be posted around the school in appropriate places such as the toilets.
- Children and staff will be encouraged to have high standards of personal hygiene and practice, particularly hand washing, covering nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing etc.
- Any pupil, member of staff or visitor exhibiting symptoms of an infectious disease will be immediately isolated (children under supervision) and excluded until they are symptom free, to reduce the spread of infection.
- The member of staff supervising will encourage good hygiene on the part of the child and take care of their own hygiene. They should not stay within one metre of the child if possible, unless personal care is needed, in which case the staff member should wear personal protective equipment (disposable gloves, apron and surgical mask). The isolation room will be thoroughly cleaned after use.
- All spillages of blood, faeces, saliva, vomit, nasal and eye discharges should be cleaned up immediately using a product that combines both a detergent and a disinfectant and PPE will be worn.
- Parents of children vulnerable to severe illness will be immediately informed of any cases in school.
- The school will use the 'Guidance on Prevention and Infection Control in Schools and other Childcare Settings', developed by South Gloucestershire Council Public Health and Wellbeing Team and Public Health England South West – November 2016 (located in the main office) and will, when appropriate, contact Public Health England for advice on any outbreaks of infectious disease. QR codes can be scanned for further information.
- All parents and staff will be alerted if there is an outbreak of an infectious disease in school.
- Some infectious diseases are dangerous for pregnant women and could put their own and their baby's health at risk. The school community is informed when there is an outbreak. Contact with people having an infectious disease should be avoided.

- Those in contact with people diagnosed with an infectious disease will not be excluded from school unless they have symptoms.
- The school facilitates immunisation programmes.
- Regular cleaning of surfaces, equipment and resources will be increased.
- A deep clean of the school will be undertaken if required.
- Clinical waste is stored in correct clinical waste bags in foot-operated bins and removed by a registered waste contractor.
- Animals may carry infections, so hands will be washed after handling any animals.
- Any necessary help and advice will be sought when planning farm visits
- Closure of the school is only likely in exceptional circumstances e.g. there are not enough staff to cover classes.
- Any decision to close the school will be made by the school in conjunction with South Gloucestershire Council.
- All staff are aware of and will follow the school's Emergency Procedures.
- The Local Authority, Health Protection Unit and Primary Care Trust will be made aware of the school's points of contact.
- In the case that an outbreak of a disease attracts media attention, all press queries will be directed to the Local Authority Press Office in the first instance. Confidential and personal information will be protected.

### **Information / Contacts**

The school will consult the national guidance, which is contained within the South Gloucestershire and Public Health England (PHE) poster entitled 'Guidance on prevention and infection control in schools and other childcare settings'. This is national guidance which indicates action to be taken, i.e. whether to exclude and for how long, where a child is diagnosed with an infectious disease.

The Public Health England website also contains information on a number of health related issues and will be consulted if necessary -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england>

If further information is required, the school will contact either their competent health and safety adviser or the local PHE Centre:-

• South West PHE Centre, 2 Rivergate Temple Quay Bristol BS1 6EH

Tel: 0300 303 8162

### **Conclusion**

By following this policy, it is expected that infectious diseases are controlled in school and therefore kept to a minimum.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Guidance on Infection Control in Schools and Other Childcare Settings September 2014 (Updated May 2016) and the school's Emergency Procedures. It will be reviewed by the Health, Safety and Welfare and Premises Committee as part of the school's rolling programme of policy review or if and when underpinning guidance changes.

### **Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)**

This policy has been screened to ensure that we give 'due consideration' to equality of opportunity and has been agreed and formally approved by the appropriate reviewing and ratification Committee.

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