



Infectious Diseases Policy

Core Values

Readiness

Resilience

Respect

School Values

Independence

Ambition

Compassion

Co-operation

Initiative

Enjoyment

Responsibility

Confidence

Celebration

Kindness

Honesty

Individuality

Approved: Autumn 2025

Review: Autumn 2028

Rationale

A communicable disease is an infectious disease that is contagious, and which can be transmitted from one source to another by infectious bacteria or viral organisms. Primary responsibility for the prevention and control of infectious diseases lies with individuals, families and public health authorities; however, schools also have an important role to play.

At Kender Primary School, we can support the prevention and control of transmission of infectious diseases by:

- Supporting immunisation programs
- Providing prompt and consistent response to detected or suspected cases of disease.

Kender Primary School is not expected to give expert advice or treat children, which is the role of medical practitioners and health authorities as appropriate.

Aim

To help prevent and control the transmission of communicable diseases in our school and community. Implementation in the event of an infectious disease outbreak, Kender Primary School must:

- Take specific precautions to prevent and control the transmission of infectious diseases;
- Minimise contact with body fluids and substances and have procedures that
 - Protect staff and students and deal with inappropriate student behaviour that could result in exposure to body fluids;
 - Include educating the children about why the behaviour is inappropriate and the potential consequences.

The School Business Manager (SMB) must ensure all first aid kits are appropriately stocked and contains advice on handling spills of body fluids and substances.

Precautions

Specific precautions to assist with infection prevention and control must be followed by all staff in the school at all times. They include hygiene and bodily fluids and substance precautions set out below.

Hygiene

General precautions include:

- Good hygiene practices, particularly washing and drying hands before and after meals, after using the bathroom, after nose blowing, and after contact with contaminated objects.
- The use of protective barriers which can include gloves and masks
- Safe handling of 'sharps'
- Use of non-touch technique, as appropriate.

School Cleaners

Cleaning equipment is maintained to a high standard. The Premises Manager is responsible for monitoring cleaning standards and discussing any issues that may arise with the cleaners.

Blood and Other Bodily Fluids

Interaction between people at schools should minimise contact with body fluids and substances, including:

- blood, whether wet or dry
- secretions
- excretions other than sweat
- other body substances.

Staff members and children should:

- Cover broken skin on their hands or lower arms with waterproof occlusive dressings at all times
- When coughing or sneezing, all staff and children are encouraged to cover their nose and mouth with a disposable tissue and dispose of the tissue after use, and to wash their hands afterwards
- If caught unaware when coughing or sneezing, all staff and children are encouraged to sneeze into their elbows
- Treat blood and other body fluids and substances as being potentially infectious
- Avoid direct contact with blood and other fluids and substances, where possible
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) are worn where there is a risk of contamination with blood or bodily fluids during an activity. Gloves are disposable, non-powdered vinyl or latex. If there is a risk of splashing to the face, goggles should be worn
- Be familiar with recommended hygiene and standard precautions
- Deal with spills:
 - Using single-use gloves, or
 - Until it is possible to get someone wearing gloves to take over, then thoroughly wash their hands and any body parts that were in contact with the spill using warm water and liquid soap.
- Use a resuscitation mask, if available, if mouth-to-mouth resuscitation is required. Note: CPR training should be practiced with the use of a single-use resuscitation mask and manikins should be cleaned, dried and disinfected.

Exclusion

Schools must be aware of, and abide by, exclusion requirements during an outbreak of an infectious disease as set out in Schools Health Matters.

Bites

If a bite does not break the skin, the affected area is cleaned with soap and water.

If a bite breaks the skin, the affected area is cleaned with soap and running water, the incident is recorded in the accident book and medical advice is sought immediately.

Preventing the spread of infection

Parents will not bring their child to school in the following circumstances:

- The child shows signs of being poorly and needing one-to-one care
- The child has untreated conjunctivitis
- The child has a high temperature/fever
- Once treatment for lice has begun children can come to school as normal
- The child has been vomiting and/or had diarrhoea within the last 48 hours
- The child has an infection and the minimum recommended exclusion period has not yet passed

Vulnerable children

Children with impaired immune defence mechanisms (known as immune-compromised) are more likely to acquire infections. In addition, the effect of an infection is likely to be more significant for such children. These children may have a disease that compromises their immune system or be undergoing treatment, such as chemotherapy, that has a similar effect.

If a vulnerable child is thought to have been exposed to an infectious disease, the child's parents/carers will be informed and encouraged to seek medical advice from their doctor or specialist.

Procedures for unwell children/staff

Staff are required to know the warning signs of children becoming unwell including, but not limited to, the following:

- Not being themselves
- Not having a snack
- Not eating at lunchtimes
- Wanting more attention/sleep than usual
- Displaying physical signs of being unwell, e.g. watery eyes, a flushed face or clammy skin

Where a staff member identifies a child as unwell, the child is taken to the School Office. Their temperature will be taken by a first aider, and the child's parents/carers will be informed of the situation. Staff will:

- Attempt to cool the child down if they are too hot, by opening a window and suggesting that the child removes their top layers of clothing.
- Provide the child with a drink of water.
- Move the child to a quieter area of the classroom or school.
- Ensure there is a staff member available to comfort the child.
- Summon emergency medical help if required.

Children and staff displaying any of the signs of becoming unwell will be sent home, and we will recommend that they see a doctor.

If a child is identified with sickness and diarrhoea, the child's parents/carers will be contacted immediately and the child will be sent home and may only return after 48 hours have passed without symptoms.

If the school is unable to contact a child's parents in any situation, the child's alternative emergency contacts will be contacted.

If a staff member is suffering from vomiting and diarrhoea, they will be sent home and may not return until 48 hours have passed without symptoms.

Contaminated clothing

If the clothing of the first-aider or a child becomes contaminated, the clothing is removed as soon as possible and placed in a double plastic bag. The child's clothing is sent home with the child, and parents are advised of the best way to launder the clothing.

Exclusion

Children suffering from infectious diseases will be excluded from school on medical grounds for the minimum recommended period.

If parents insist on their child returning to school when the child still poses a risk to others, the LA may serve notice on the child's parents to require them to keep the child away from school until the child no longer poses a risk of infection.

If a child is exposed to an infectious disease, but is not confirmed to be infected, this is not normally a valid reason for exclusion; however, the local health protection team (HPT) may be contacted to advise on a case-by-case basis.

Medication

Where a child has been prescribed medication by a doctor, dentist, nurse or pharmacist, the first dose will be given at home, in case the child has an adverse reaction.

The child will only be allowed to return to school 24 hours after the first dose of medication, to allow it time to take effect.

All medicine provided in school will be administered in line with the Administering Medication Policy.

Outbreaks of infectious diseases

An incident is classed as an 'outbreak' where:

- Two or more people experiencing a similar illness are linked in time or place.
- A greater than expected rate of infection is present compared with the usual background rate e.g.:
 - Two or more children in the same classroom are suffering from vomiting and diarrhoea.
 - A greater number of children than usual is diagnosed with scarlet fever.
 - There are two or more cases of measles at the school.

Suspected outbreaks of any of the diseases listed in the "Spotty Book" will always be reported.

As soon as an outbreak is suspected (even if it cannot be confirmed), the headteacher will contact the Lewisham HPT to discuss the situation and agree if any actions are needed.

The headteacher will provide the following information:

- The number of staff and children affected
- The symptoms present
- The date(s) the symptoms first appeared
- The number of classes affected

If the headteacher is unsure whether suspected cases of infectious diseases constitute an outbreak, they will contact the HPT.

The HPT will provide the school with draft letters and factsheets to distribute to parents. The HPT will always treat outbreaks in the strictest confidence; therefore, information provided to parents during an outbreak will never include names and other personal details.

If a parent informs the school that their child carries an infectious disease, the infectious disease controls are checked to see if they are allowed in school, if they are, other children will be observed for similar symptoms by their teachers

If a child is identified as having a notifiable disease, the school will inform the parents.

During an outbreak, enhanced cleaning protocols will be undertaken, following advice provided by the local HPT. The SBM will liaise with the cleaning contractor to ensure these take place.

Pregnant staff members

If a pregnant staff member develops a rash or is in direct contact with someone who has a potentially contagious rash or infectious disease, we will strongly encourage her to speak to her doctor or midwife. This includes but is not limited to: chickenpox, measles, rubella, slapped cheek disease.

Staff handling food

Food handling staff suffering from transmittable diseases will be excluded from all food handling activity until advised by the local Environmental Health Officer that they are clear to return to work. Both food handling staff and midday assistants are not permitted to attend work if they are suffering from diarrhoea and/or vomiting. They are not permitted to return to work until 48 hours have passed since diarrhoea and/or vomiting occurred.

In some cases, a medical certificate provided by a registered medical practitioner must be received prior to readmission to classes can be allowed.

Contact with pets and animals

Animals in schools are strictly controlled:

- The school only considers the following animals as school pets: chickens, hamsters, guinea pigs and rabbits.
- Animals in school are only permitted in the following areas: classrooms / dedicated outdoor areas.

- All animals receive recommended treatments and immunisations,
- Bedding is changed on a **weekly** basis.
- Feeding areas are kept clean and pet food is stored away from human food.
- The headteacher ensures that a knowledgeable person is responsible for each animal.

Visits to farms are strictly controlled by the policies and protocols contained in their individual risk assessment.

Visits to zoos are strictly controlled and refer to their own risk assessment.

Parents &/or carers have a responsibility to inform the Head Teacher as soon as practicable if a child is infected with any infectious or communicable disease or has been in contact with an infected person

Appendix

“The Spotty Book Notes on infectious diseases in Schools and Nurseries” which outlines the minimum periods of exclusion from Primary Schools for infectious diseases cases and contacts.