

Infection Control Policy



Governing Body Ratified:	25th November 2024
<i>M. Smart</i> Head Teacher	<i>J Dancy</i> Chair of Governors
Governing Body Review Date:	November 2026

Adswood Primary School

INTRODUCTION

This policy has been written in line with the current guidance from the Health Protection Agency and the Public Health Agency.

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

This policy aims to provide the school community with guidance when preparing for, and where possible preventing, the spread of infection within the school.

PRINCIPLES

The school recognises that most infections such as influenza are not new, and that at any time the school could 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 low residual immunity, and not as much of good hygiene as adults, 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, but we will strive to remain open whenever possible and when advised by the LA. School staff will give pupils positive messages about health, good hand hygiene 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 immediately consult with the Local Authority / Public Health Agency and act on their advice.

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 and children absence. The decision on whether school should remain open or close will be based on medical and L.A advice where possible. School will remain open where possible, the school may have to close if we cannot provide adequate supervision for the children. Students may be asked to complete work at home as advised by teaching staff.

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.

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

These messages are promoted in assemblies and daily teaching /interaction with children.

To 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 wear protective clothing when dealing with accidents. (e.g. gloves/Aprons/Facemasks)
- Cleaning routines are thorough of appropriate cleaning products are used.

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

http://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance_on_infection_control_in%20schools_poster.pdf