



Infection Control Policy

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment

Governors Committee Responsibility:

Resources

Date Approved:

Autumn 2023

Review Period:

Annually

Next Review Date:

Autumn 2024

The Limpsfield Grange Values:

At Limpsfield Grange we believe in working together to make a difference.

We are a tolerant community; we accept value and understand others.

We care for all members of our community without judgement.

We are responsible for our own learning, behaviour and actions.

We accept that sometimes things go wrong. We work together to take responsibility for our mistakes and for putting things right.

We are a respectful community and we treat others as we would like to be treated, even if they have different views and opinions to our own.

We understand that good behaviour helps us to prepare for life beyond Limpsfield Grange.

We are positive and resilient. We celebrate difference in everything that we do.

We are all proud to be part of the Limpsfield Grange community.

July 2023

Limpsfield Grange School

Infection Control Policy

This policy incorporates UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) guidance [Health protection in schools and other childcare facilities](#)

Schools are common sites for transmission of infections. Students are particularly susceptible because:

- They have immature immune systems
- They have close contact with other children
- They sometimes have no or incomplete vaccinations
- They have a poor understanding of hygiene practices

Aims of the policy

This policy aims to provide information for Limpsfield Grange School staff, Governors and wider members of the school community to manage a range of common and important childhood infections in school.

Scope

The Limpsfield Grange School Infection Control policy applies to all staff, Governors and wider members of the school community.

Infection

Infections in children are common due to the immaturity of a child's immune system. Children often have close contact with their friends and lack good hygiene habits, making it easier for infections to be passed on. Many diseases can spread before the individual displays symptoms (during the infectious period).

Infection prevention and control measures aim to interrupt the cycle of infection by promoting the routine use of good standards of hygiene so that transmission of infection is reduced overall. This is usually through:

- immunisation of students and staff
- good hand washing
- making sure the environment is kept clean

Where a case of infection is known, measures aim to reduce or eliminate the risk of spread through information and prompt exclusion of a case.

Infections are spread in many different ways.

Airborne or droplet spread	Respiratory infections can spread easily between people. Sneezing, coughing, singing and talking may spread respiratory droplets (aerosols) from an infected person to someone close by. Airborne infections can spread without necessarily having close contact with another person via small respiratory particles. Droplets from the mouth or nose may also contaminate hands, cups or other items and spread to those who touch them, particularly if they touch their mouth or nose. These can penetrate deep into the lungs (respiratory system). Examples of infections that are spread in this way are the common cold, coronavirus (COVID-19), influenza and whooping cough.
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Direct contact spread:	By direct contact with the infected area to another person's body, or via contact with a contaminated surface. This is the most common route of cross-infection from one person to another. Examples of infections spread in this way are scabies, headlice, ringworm and impetigo.
Gastro-intestinal spread:	Gastro-intestinal infections can spread from person to person when infected faeces or vomit are transferred to the mouth either directly or from contaminated food, water or objects such as door handles or toilet flush handles. Examples of infections spread in this way include hepatitis A, Shiga-Toxin-producing Escherichia coli (STEC) and norovirus.
Blood borne virus spread:	Blood borne viruses are viruses that some people carry in their blood and can be spread from one person to another by contact with infected blood or body fluids, for example, while attending to a bleeding person or injury with a used needle. Examples of infections spread in this way are hepatitis B and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).

Groups at higher risk from infection

For most people, the risk from common infections is low and few will become seriously unwell. There are some groups of people who are either at higher risk of contracting an infection, or at risk of more severe illness or other consequences because of contracting the infection.

A small number of people have impaired immune defence mechanisms in their bodies either because of a medical condition or due to treatment they are receiving (known as immunosuppressed.) People who are immunosuppressed may have a reduced ability to fight infections and other diseases.

Most people in this group will be under the care of a hospital specialist and will have received advice on the risks to them and when to seek medical advice. Students or members of staff in this group should continue to attend Limpsfield Grange School unless advised otherwise by their clinician.

If a student who may be at a higher risk due to their immunosuppressed status is thought to have been exposed to an infection whilst in the care of Limpsfield Grange School, their parents or carers should be informed immediately so that they can seek advice from their GP or specialist, as appropriate. Staff within the school who may be at risk due to their immunosuppressed status and may have been exposed to an infectious disease, should also be informed immediately so they can seek further medical advice from their GP or specialist, as appropriate.

Women who are pregnant should ensure they are up-to-date with the recommended vaccinations, including COVID-19 immunisation (see [Supporting immunisation programmes - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/supporting-immunisation-programmes)). Pregnant women should consult their midwife or GP immediately if they meet with people with measles, mumps, rubella, slapped cheek syndrome and chickenpox as contact with these illnesses can affect the pregnancy and/or development of the unborn baby. They should also avoid contact with animal litter trays due to the risk of toxoplasmosis.

Prevention and control

Germs are spread during the infectious period and for some diseases such as chickenpox and coronavirus this can be before the person shows any symptoms.

Hand hygiene

Hand washing is one of the most important ways of controlling the spread of infections, especially those that cause diarrhoea and vomiting and respiratory disease. Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels are

provided. Alcohol hand gel can be used if hands are not visibly dirty. Alcohol hand gel is not effective against organisms that cause gastroenteritis, such as norovirus.

All staff and students are advised to wash their hands after using the toilet, before eating or handling food and after touching animals.

Staff and students are advised to cover all cuts and abrasions with a waterproof dressing.

Respiratory and cough hygiene

Covering the nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing can reduce the spread of infections.

All staff, students and visitors should be encouraged, particularly those with signs and symptoms of respiratory infection to follow respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette:

- Cover nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing and sneezing, dispose of the used tissue in a waste bin, wash hands.
- Cough or sneeze into the inner elbow (upper sleeve) if no tissues are available, rather than into the hand.
- Keep contaminated hands away from the eyes, nose and mouth.
- Clean hands after contact with respiratory secretions and contaminated objects and materials.

Spitting is strongly discouraged.

Cleaning

Keeping the school and equipment clean, reduces the risk of transmission. Cleaning with detergent and water is normally all that is required as it removes most germs that can cause diseases.

In the event of an outbreak of infection at Limpsfield Grange School, our UKHSA protection team (HPT) may recommend enhanced or more frequent cleaning, to help reduce transmission. This is covered in [Managing outbreaks and incidents - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/managing-outbreaks-and-incidents).

Advice may be given to increase cleaning of areas with particular attention to hand touch surfaces that can be easily contaminated such as door handles, toilet flushes, taps and communal touch areas.

All spillages of blood, faeces, saliva, vomit, nasal and eye discharges should be cleaned up immediately, wearing PPE.

Clean spillages using a product which combines detergent and disinfectant (and ensure it is effective against both bacteria and viruses). Always follow the manufacturer's instructions. Use disposable paper towels or cloths to clean up blood and body fluid spills and dispose of after use. A spillage kit should be available for bodily fluids like blood, vomit and urine.

What you need to do

Clean surfaces that people touch a lot. Regularly clean and disinfect all areas or surfaces in contact with food, dirt, or bodily fluids. Antibacterial spray and wipes are available in all areas of the school.

In cleaning schedules, clearly describe the activities required, the frequency of cleaning and who will carry them out.

Limpsfield Grange uses contract cleaners for the main school cleaning and has procedures, personal protective equipment (PPE) and staff in place for increased cleaning and disinfection of areas as and when necessary (e.g., in the event of an outbreak).

Cleaning standards are monitored by the School Business Manager.

Areas where food is handled or prepared

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) [Homepage | Food Standards Agency](#) strongly advises the use of either a dishwasher, a sterilising sink, or a steam cleaner to clean and disinfect equipment and utensils.

Limpsfield Grange has a commercial dishwasher in the main school kitchen and domestic dishwashers in the residential kitchens. These are operated and maintained according to the manufacturer's instructions and include regular dishwasher interior cleaning cycles. We follow food hygiene standards from the Food Standards Agency and ensure that staff and students involved in food preparation are fully trained in food hygiene and safety.

Toileting and sanitation

Good hygiene practices depend on adequate facilities and clear processes. Limpsfield Grange School promotes hand washing to both staff and students using posters displayed in all toilet facilities.

Limpsfield Grange has hand wash basins available in all toilets and on the school playground, with warm running water along with a mild liquid soap that is wall-mounted with disposable cartridges.

Disposable paper towels in wall mounted dispenser and/or hand dryers are next to all basins, together with a nearby foot-operated wastepaper bin. Toilet paper is available in each cubicle.

Suitable sanitary disposal facilities are provided in all student and female staff/visitor toilets.

Nappy disposal facilities are available in the swimming pool area for swimming club clients.

Personal protective equipment

PPE can protect individuals and staff from contamination with blood or bodily fluids, which may contain germs that spread disease. PPE should be used in line with Limpsfield Grange's risk assessments, proportionate to the risk identified.

What you need to do

If there is a risk of splashing or contamination with blood or bodily fluids during an activity, wear disposable gloves and plastic aprons. Gloves and aprons should be single-use disposable, non-powdered vinyl/nitrile or latex-free and CE marked.

Wear a fluid-repellent surgical facemask and eye protection if there is a risk of splashing with blood or body fluids to the face. If reusable, decontaminate prior to next use.

Safe Management of the Environment

Ventilation

Ventilation is the process of introducing fresh air into indoor spaces while removing stale air. Letting fresh air into indoor spaces can help dilute air that contains viral particles and reduce the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory infections.

Further information is available: [Ventilation to reduce the spread of respiratory infections, including COVID-19](#)

What you need to do

All occupied spaces should be kept well ventilated to help reduce the number of respiratory germs. Open windows and doors as much as possible to let fresh air in (unless it is unsafe to do so, for example, do not keep fire doors open).

Try and open higher-level windows to reduce draughts, where it is safe to do.

During the colder months, you may consider opening windows more when the room is unoccupied in between lessons.

Keeping animals on site

At Limpsfield Grange we have dogs, sheep, goats and alpacas to enhance our learning environment and calm our students. However, contact with animals can pose a risk of infection including gastro-intestinal infection, fungal infections and parasites.

Some people may be at greater risk of developing a severe infection. We have risk assessments, policies and procedures for all animals on site.

Safe management of linen and soft furnishings

Our laundry facilities are separate from any food preparation areas, have appropriate hand washing facilities and washing machines have a pre-wash cycle.

Avoid rinsing clothing by hand as there is a risk of inhaling fine contaminated aerosol droplets. Instead, rinse soiled articles of clothing in a washing machine pre-wash cycle, prior to washing.

Bed linen:

- ensure that linen is washed at least weekly and when visibly dirty
- bedding should be allocated to a named person
- remove dirty and used linen from areas that are accessible to students.
- carefully dispose of any soiling (faeces) found on clothing or linen into the toilet.
- wash all linen at the hottest temperatures specified on the fabric
- keep fresh linen in a clean, dry area separate from used linen

Safe management of blood and bodily fluids

Blood and bodily fluids can contain germs that cause infection. It is not always evident whether a person has an infection, and so precautions should always be taken.

Cleaning blood and bodily fluid spills

Clean any spillages of blood, faeces, saliva, vomit, nasal discharges immediately, wearing PPE. Use gloves and an apron if you anticipate splashing and risk assess the need for facial and eye protection.

Clean using a product which combines detergent and disinfectant that is effective against both bacteria and viruses. Manufacturer's guidance should always be followed. Cleaning with detergent followed by the use of a disinfectant is also acceptable. It should be noted that some agents, such as NaDCC (Sodium

Dichloroisocyanurate or Troclosene Sodium, a form of chlorine used for disinfection), cannot be used on urine.

Use disposable paper towels or cloths to clean up blood and bodily fluid spills. These should be disposed of immediately and safely after use.

A spillage kit should be available for bodily fluids like blood, vomit and urine.

Managing cuts, bites, nose bleeds and bodily fluid spills

Take standard precautions when dealing with any cuts or abrasions that involve a break in the skin or bodily fluid spills. Refer to the school's Health and Safety and Student's Health and Medication Policies for further details.

Use Standard Infection Prevention and Control (SIPC) precautions to reduce the risk of unknown (and known) disease transmission.

These include:

- wearing gloves when in contact with blood, bodily fluids, non-intact skin, eyes, mouth, or nose (washing grazes, dressing wounds, cleaning up blood after an incident) and wearing a disposable plastic apron
- carefully cleaning the wound under running water if possible or using a disposable container with water and wipes; carefully dab dry
- covering all exposed cuts and grazes with waterproof plasters
- keeping the dressing clean by changing it as often as is necessary
- managing all spillages of blood or body fluids

Safe management of waste (including sharps)

Under the waste management duty of care, settings must ensure that all waste produced is dealt with by a licensed waste management company. Place any used PPE in a refuse bag and dispose of as normal domestic waste. PPE should not be put in a recycling bin or dropped as litter.

Sanitary bins and nappy bins are provided and disposed of by a licensed waste management company.

Managing prevention of exposure to infection (including needlestick or sharps injuries, and bites)

An exposure is an injury from a used needle or a bite which breaks the skin, and/or exposure of blood and body fluids onto:

- broken skin
- the eyes, nose or mouth

Human mouths are inhabited by a wide variety of organisms, some of which can be transmitted by bites. Human bites resulting in puncture or breaking of the skin are potential sources of exposure to blood borne infections, therefore, it is essential that they are managed promptly.

What you need to do

If someone pricks or scratches themselves with a used hypodermic needle or has a bite which breaks the skin:

- dispose of the needle safely in a sharps container to avoid the same thing happening to someone else.

- wash the wound thoroughly with soap and warm running water
- cover the wound with a waterproof dressing
- seek immediate medical attention or advice from your local accident and emergency department.
- record it in the accident book and complete the accident form

Managing outbreaks and incidents

Many infectious diseases can be managed by reinforcing the measures recommended in [Preventing and controlling infections](#) and by:

- encouraging all people who are unwell not to attend the setting or remain separate from others, wherever possible –further guidance on exclusion periods is available for specific infectious diseases [Managing specific infectious diseases: A to Z - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- ensuring all eligible groups are enabled and supported to take up the offer of immunisation programmes including coronavirus (COVID-19) and flu
- ensuring occupied spaces are well ventilated and let fresh air in
- reinforcing good hygiene practices such as frequent cleaning and hand hygiene
- requesting that parents, carers or students inform the setting of a diagnosis of any infectious disease

People who are showing the symptoms of an infectious disease [The NHS website - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#) or have been diagnosed by a health professional or diagnostic test should be advised to stay away from their setting for the minimum period recommended, if required, and until well enough.

See guidance for specific infectious diseases to find out if, and how long, people should be advised to stay away [Managing specific infectious diseases: A to Z - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

When to contact the Health Protection Team

There are some situations where you may need to contact your local UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) HPT [Find your local health protection team in England - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

UKHSA Surrey and Sussex Health Protection Team (South East)

County Hall, Chart Way
Horsham
RH12 1XH

ICC.KSS@ukhsa.gov.uk

Phone: 0344 225 3861

Advice on when and when not to contact the HPT is included for each disease [Managing specific infectious diseases: A to Z - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

Contact your HPT for advice if you are concerned and/or have seen:

- a higher than previously experienced and/or rapidly increasing number of absences due to the same infection
- evidence of severe disease due to an infection, for example if an individual is admitted to hospital
- more than one infection circulating in the same group of people, for example chicken pox and scarlet fever
- an outbreak or serious or unusual illness for example:
 - [E.coli](#) 0157 or E. coli STEC infection
 - [food poisoning](#)
 - [hepatitis](#)
 - [measles](#), [mumps](#), [rubella](#) (rubella is also called German measles)

- [meningococcal meningitis or septicemia](#)
- [scarlet fever](#) (if an outbreak or co-circulating chicken pox)
- [tuberculosis \(TB\)](#)
- [typhoid](#)
- [whooping cough](#) (also called pertussis)

If you do need to contact your HPT, you should prepare information in advance to help them to support you. Find out what information you need in [What to expect from contacting your HPT](#).

Notifiable illnesses are normally reported through a GP who has made a formal diagnosis of an infectious illness, or through hospital admission when tests have been done. A GP has the responsibility of notifying UKHSA or a hospital where a child is receiving care.

For common infections, Limpsfield Grange will refer to the UKHSA public health exclusions table [Children and young people settings: tools and resources - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

If there are unusual levels of a specific infection, like a group A strep, or there is an outbreak of infectious illness like diarrhoea and vomiting, UKHSA should be contacted for advice, or alternatively your HPT. The HPT can also draft letters and provide factsheets for parents and carers to ensure the most up to date information is given.

Immunisation

Immunisation means both receiving a vaccine and then becoming immune to a disease. A full dose of vaccination generally provides immunity similar to that provided by the natural infection, but without the risk of the disease or its complications.

Achieving high levels of immunity against vaccine preventable diseases is vital to reduce the spread of infection and prevent outbreaks. High levels of immunity can result in herd immunity, whereby the protection from immunisation programmes extends to individuals who cannot be vaccinated for several reasons.

For more information on school immunisation programmes please see [Supporting immunisation programmes - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

Staff immunisation

It is important that all staff are [up to date with their vaccinations](#). Staff may wish to speak to their GP or practice nurse for support or advice.

All staff should be encouraged to check their immunisation records and contact their GP practice if they are unsure if they are up to date or if they need to catch up.

MMR vaccination

In particular, all staff should make sure that they have had 2 doses of the MMR vaccine.

The MMR vaccine is the safest and most effective way to protect yourself against measles, mumps and rubella, which are viral infections that can quickly spread and cause outbreaks.

Rubella caught in pregnancy can lead to miscarriage or cause very serious harm to the unborn baby and so all people who are considering a pregnancy should make sure they are up to date with their 2 doses of the MMR vaccine. The MMR vaccine is available for free on the NHS with no upper age limit.

Further information is available in the [Thinking of getting pregnant?](#) leaflet.

Hepatitis B vaccine

The hepatitis B vaccine is recommended for staff who are involved in the care of individuals with severe learning disability or challenging behaviour who live in institutional accommodation.

In such circumstances, it is the responsibility of the employer to conduct an Occupational Health risk assessment and pay for the vaccine if it is required.

UKHSA tools and resources

Tools and resources [Children and young people settings: tools and resources - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) are available for settings to download as PDF documents and include:

- A public health exclusions table to indicate the time period an individual should not attend a setting to reduce the risk of transmission during the infectious stage
- Diarrhoea and vomiting outbreak action checklist
- Meningitis or septicaemia: action checklist
- Posters for managing cases of infectious diseases [Infectious diseases: education and childcare settings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

Useful links

[Emergency planning and response for education, childcare, and children's social care settings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Health protection in children and young people settings, including education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Specific settings and populations: additional health protection considerations - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[School nursing :: Children and Family Health Surrey \(childrenshealthsurrey.nhs.uk\)](#)

[Scarlet fever: managing outbreaks in schools and nurseries - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Preventing Infections in Childcare - Online Course - FutureLearn](#)

Related documents

- Animals in School Policy
- Attendance Management Policy and Procedure
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Disciplinary and Capability Policy
- Dogs in School Policy
- Equality & Diversity Policy
- Health and Safety policy
- Special Educational Needs Policy
- Staff Behaviour Policy
- Student's Health and Medication Policy

Review

The Governing Body of Limpsfield
Grange School adopted this policy on:

It will be reviewed on:

Signed

Dated
