



Infection Control Policy Stow ELC

Rationale

This setting has a duty to protect the health, safety and welfare of all users and employees as well as a duty of care. In addition to this, presentation and control of infection is essential in helping to establish a safe and secure environment in which children can learn and develop through play.

Aims

- To minimise the sources of contamination
- To control the spread of infection - To raise awareness of hygiene procedures
- To prevent cross-contamination
- To prevent the persistence and further spread of infection

Procedures

As a staff we will:

- Adhere to the requirements of the Food Standards Agency
- Store food that requires refrigeration within a refrigerator
- Wash hands before and after handling food
- Clean and disinfect designated food storage and preparation areas
- Access training in food handling
- Maintain and promote procedures for hand washing
- Encourage children to wash their hands in clean water as a matter of routine after using the toilet and before snacks and meals
- Check that equipment is clean and is given a regular deep clean
- Provide disposable towels in toilets
- Cover all cuts and open sores
- Wear protective clothing when dealing with accidents (gloves and apron)
- Ensure a protocol is in place and followed regarding contact with blood and bodily fluids and the safe disposal of waste material
- Provide visual instructions where possible for ease of understanding
- Ensure that children and adults use separate toilet facilities where possible
- Display the Public Health Notice with information on the exclusion periods of communicable diseases
- Be vigilant as to signs of infection persisting or recurring
- Remind parents/carers of exclusion periods if a sick child is brought to the school/ELC
- Remove outdoor shoes in cloakroom, pupils to carry shoes/wellies to their peg
- Inform all attending adults of the existing policy and procedures

- Ensure that staff/student induction includes appropriate policy documents and guidance
- Update information as received from local and national sources

This protocol outlines the steps to take in the event of an outbreak within the setting. Here's a breakdown of the key measures:

- 1. Closure of certain areas:**
 - Sand, water, and playdough areas will be closed off to reduce any potential spread of germs through communal play.
- 2. Cleaning and removal of soft furnishings:**
 - Soft furnishings like cushions and rugs will either be cleaned or removed, if possible, to minimise contamination.
- 3. Suspension of toothbrushing:**
 - Toothbrushing will be temporarily stopped to avoid close contact or the spread of germs.
- 4. Changes to snack and lunchtime arrangements:**
 - Self-service options for snacks and lunches will be suspended, possibly to limit shared handling of food and utensils.
- 5. Duration of measures:**
 - These precautionary steps will remain in place until 48 hours after the last child who was absent due to the illness has returned to the setting.
- 6. Outbreak definition:**
 - An outbreak is identified when there are two or more cases of the same illness within the setting.
- 7. Notification procedure:**
 - The Headteacher must be informed of the outbreak, and they will then contact the central Education Duty Team to ensure further support and action.

This protocol ensures that the setting takes the necessary actions to limit the spread of illness and ensures the health and safety of all children and staff.