

Infection Control Policy

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Review date: September 2027

1. Statement of Intent

Haggonfields Primary School is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for pupils, staff, volunteers and visitors. Effective infection prevention and control measures help minimise the spread of illness and support the wellbeing of the whole school community.

Infections can spread easily within schools due to:

- Close contact between pupils and staff.
- Pupils' developing immune systems.
- Shared learning environments, resources and equipment.
- Pupils' varying levels of understanding of good hygiene practices.

Infections may spread through:

- Respiratory droplets from coughing and sneezing.
- Direct physical contact.
- Contaminated surfaces or equipment.
- Contaminated food or water.
- Contact with blood or other bodily fluids.

The school seeks to prevent and control infection through:

- Promoting good personal hygiene.
- Maintaining clean and hygienic premises.
- Supporting national immunisation programmes.
- Responding promptly to infectious illnesses and outbreaks.
- Following advice from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and other relevant health professionals.

This policy establishes the procedures for preventing, identifying and managing infectious diseases within the school.

2. Legal Framework

This policy has regard to:

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH) 2002

- Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 2013
- Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010
- Health Protection (Local Authority Powers) Regulations 2010

This policy should be read alongside:

- Health and Safety Policy
 - First Aid Policy
 - Medicines Policy
 - Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
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3. Roles and Responsibilities

Headteacher

The Headteacher will:

- Ensure effective infection control arrangements are in place.
- Seek advice from the UKHSA Health Protection Team where necessary.
- Ensure staff receive appropriate training and guidance.
- Monitor the implementation of this policy.

Staff

All staff will:

- Follow infection control procedures.
- Promote good hygiene practices.
- Report concerns regarding infectious illnesses.
- Take appropriate action if a child becomes unwell.
- Follow exclusion guidance where required.

Parents and Carers

Parents and carers are expected to:

- Keep children at home when exclusion periods apply.
- Inform the school promptly of infectious illnesses.
- Ensure emergency contact information is kept up to date.

- Support good hygiene practices.
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4. Maintaining a Clean Environment

The school will ensure:

- Adequate cleaning schedules are implemented throughout the premises.
- Cleaning products are used safely and stored securely.
- Cleaning equipment is colour coded where appropriate.
- Frequently touched surfaces receive regular cleaning.
- Waste is disposed of appropriately.

Toilets and Washrooms

The school will provide:

- Running hot and cold water.
 - Liquid soap dispensers.
 - Disposable paper towels or hand dryers.
 - Toilet paper in all cubicles.
 - Appropriate sanitary disposal facilities.
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5. Hand Hygiene

Handwashing is one of the most effective ways of preventing infection.

Staff and pupils will be encouraged to wash their hands:

- After using the toilet.
- Before eating or handling food.
- After outdoor play.
- After contact with animals.
- After coughing, sneezing or blowing their nose.
- After contact with blood or bodily fluids.

Handwashing should involve soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

Where handwashing facilities are unavailable, alcohol-based hand sanitiser may be used under adult supervision where appropriate.

6. Respiratory Hygiene

The school promotes the principles of:

"Catch it, Bin it, Kill it."

Pupils and staff will be encouraged to:

- Cover their mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.
- Use disposable tissues.
- Dispose of tissues immediately after use.
- Wash hands after coughing, sneezing or nose blowing.

7. Blood and Bodily Fluids

All blood and bodily fluid spillages will be treated as potentially infectious.

The school will ensure:

- Cuts and abrasions are covered with waterproof dressings.
- Appropriate PPE is available and used when required.
- Disposable gloves are worn when dealing with blood or bodily fluids.
- Spillages are cleaned promptly and safely.
- Contaminated materials are disposed of appropriately.

8. Toys, Equipment and Play Resources

The school will ensure that:

- Toys and frequently used resources are cleaned regularly.
- Water play equipment is cleaned and refreshed daily when in use.
- Sand trays and sand pits are maintained hygienically and covered when not in use.
- Shared equipment is cleaned more frequently during periods of increased illness.

9. Immunisation

The school supports national immunisation programmes.

Where vaccinations are delivered on site:

- Appropriate arrangements will be made with healthcare providers.
- Parents will be provided with information and consent procedures.
- Vaccinations will only be administered by qualified healthcare professionals.

The school encourages families and staff to keep routine vaccinations up to date.

10. Staff Health

All staff are expected to:

- Take reasonable care of their own health and safety.
- Report infectious illnesses where appropriate.
- Follow exclusion guidance when unwell.
- Seek medical advice when necessary.

Pregnant staff members who may have been exposed to infectious diseases should seek advice from their GP, midwife or occupational health provider.

11. Swimming and Water-Based Activities

Pupils who have experienced vomiting or diarrhoea within the previous 48 hours must not participate in swimming activities.

The school will ensure that any swimming provision follows the hygiene requirements of the swimming facility being used.

12. Managing Illness in School

Staff will remain alert to signs that a pupil may be unwell, including:

- Unusual tiredness.
- Loss of appetite.
- High temperature.
- Vomiting or diarrhoea.
- Persistent coughing.
- Rash or other visible symptoms.

Where a child becomes unwell:

- The child will be supervised appropriately.

- Parents or carers will be contacted.
 - The child may be sent home if necessary.
 - Emergency contacts will be used if parents cannot be reached.
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13. Exclusion from School

The school will follow current UKHSA guidance regarding exclusion periods for infectious diseases.

Children should not attend school if they:

- Have a high temperature.
- Are vomiting.
- Have diarrhoea.
- Are suffering from an infectious illness that requires exclusion.

Diarrhoea and Vomiting

Children and staff experiencing diarrhoea and/or vomiting must remain away from school until 48 hours after symptoms have ceased.

The Headteacher may require a pupil to remain away from school where attendance presents a significant risk to others.

14. Clinically Vulnerable and Immunocompromised Pupils

Some pupils may be at increased risk from infectious diseases due to medical conditions or treatment.

Where appropriate:

- Parents should inform the school of relevant medical conditions.
 - Individual risk assessments may be completed.
 - Advice will be sought from healthcare professionals.
 - Parents will be informed if significant exposure to certain infections may have occurred.
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15. Outbreak Management

An outbreak may be suspected where:

- Two or more linked cases of a similar illness occur.

- There is an unusual increase in a particular infection.

Where an outbreak is suspected, the Headteacher will:

- Seek advice from the UKHSA Health Protection Team.
- Follow professional guidance.
- Implement any recommended control measures.
- Communicate appropriately with parents and staff.
- Maintain confidentiality at all times.

Records of significant outbreaks and actions taken will be retained in accordance with the school's records management procedures.

16. Food Handling

Staff involved in food preparation or handling must:

- Maintain high standards of personal hygiene.
- Report symptoms of foodborne illness immediately.
- Refrain from food handling duties if suffering from diarrhoea or vomiting.

Food handling staff experiencing diarrhoea and/or vomiting must not return to work until at least 48 hours after symptoms have stopped, unless alternative advice is provided by a healthcare professional or Environmental Health Officer.

17. Monitoring and Review

All staff will receive information regarding infection prevention and control as part of their induction and ongoing training.

The Headteacher will review this policy annually, or sooner if:

- Legislation changes.
- National guidance changes.
- An outbreak or incident indicates a review is required.

Next Review Date: September 2027

Appendix A: Common Exclusion Periods

Illness	Exclusion Guidance
Diarrhoea and vomiting	48 hours after last episode
Chickenpox	Until all spots have crusted over
Impetigo	Until lesions are healed or 48 hours after starting antibiotics
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after commencing antibiotics
Measles	Four days after rash onset
Mumps	Five days after onset of swelling
Whooping Cough	Two days after starting antibiotics, or 21 days from onset if untreated

The school will always follow the latest UKHSA guidance where exclusion periods differ from those listed above.