

SUMMERHILL PREP INFECTION CONTROL POLICY

By using Infection Control Practices effectively, we can reduce the transmission of infections from one person to another in a school environment.

Aim of this policy:

To educate all staff, parents and learners alike on the healthy practices used to reduce the risk of infections at school and to curb the spread of communicable diseases.

School Staff Responsibility:

- Ask sick students and staff to stay home (and to seek medical attention when necessary).
- Keep a supply of alcohol-based hand sanitiser in the classes and on the porches.
- Teach good hand washing practices and coughing etiquette and reinforce frequently with the students.
- Clean and disinfect classroom materials and surfaces regularly.
- Provide reminders in daily announcements about preventing the spread of germs and illnesses.
- Adopt healthy practices, such as safe handling of food and the use of standard precautions when handling body fluids and excretions.
- Evaluate ventilation to make sure that heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems deliver adequate fresh air to the classrooms and other school areas.
- Custodial and classroom staff should follow common sense cleaning and disinfection practices, but avoid the overuse of disinfectant that can exacerbate asthma.
- The school should inform staff and parents on tips to stay healthy and minimize the spread of illness and to check the Centres for Disease and Prevention website for additional information.
- Conduct termly head lice inspection.

Parent Responsibility:

- Take preventative healthcare measures and inform the school of all health issues that could affect their child at school.
- Contact the school if their child is ill or will not be attending school.
- Inform the school of allergies, chronic illnesses and injuries that occurred at any given time.
- Make the school aware of any health, psychological or behavioural problems, circumstances or incidents that may influence the behaviour or health of their child.
- Send your child to school with travel size tissues and hand sanitisers for their personal use.
- Teach your children to wash their hands.
- Keep your children home when they are sick if:
 - Their illness poses a risk to others;
 - Their illness prevents them from taking part in classroom activities;
 - They have a serious contagious illness.

NB: Children with serious contagious illnesses will only be allowed to come back to school when a doctor certifies that they have recuperated sufficiently and are no longer contagious.

- Not all “bugs” shared at school are germs.

Head lice, which are parasitic insects that survive by feeding on human blood, are commonly spread in schools. Lice can be found on people’s heads and bodies. Head lice are most commonly spread through person-to person contact, but can also be spread by sharing combs, brushes, and other personal items.

Please do not send a child with the following symptoms/conditions to school:

- Taking antibiotics (first three days)
- High fever, i.e. above 38°C
- Draining ears, discoloured mucus from the nose
- Multiple loose stools / diarrhoea
- Nausea and vomiting
- Tight chest, shallow breathing and/or severe coughing
- Sleepiness accompanied by other symptoms
- Lung infections, e.g. bronchitis, pneumonia
- Rash or symptoms of contagious disease, e.g. measles, chicken pox
- Contagious skin infections
- Red/pink eyes or eyes with discharge
- Head lice or nits are present

Sick Bay

Children who become ill at school will be taken to the Sick Bay for observation, emergency care and assessment as well as isolation from the general school population. The First Aid trained member of staff will decide whether a student is to stay in the sick bay until they are collected or can be sent back to class. Parents will be contacted directly by a staff member of the Sick Bay.

NB: In the event of elevated temperature, diarrhoea, vomiting, excessive coughing, eye/mouth infections or general infections parents are compelled to collect their child without delay.

Epidemics

In the case of an epidemic (topographical/national/global), Summerhill School will follow the formal directives set out by the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) and the Department of Education (DoE).