



Thomas Russell Infants' School Infection control procedures

When people live or work closely together they are more at risk from spreading infections and diseases. When a person has an infectious illness/disease strict precautions will be observed. Thomas Russell Infants School ensures that staff are aware of any risks and precautions to be taken to prevent the spread of infection/disease. Preventative measures such as personal protective equipment (PPE), training and procedures are provided. The school ensures that all notifiable infections to the local health team.

Infections are usually spread from person to person by close contact, for example:

- Infected people can pass a virus to others through droplets when coughing, sneezing or even talking within close distance.
- Through direct contact with an infected person, by shaking or holding their hand, and then touching your mouth, nose or eyes without first washing your hands.
- By touching objects: door handles and light switches that have been previously touched by an infected person, then touching your own mouth, nose or eyes without washing your hands.
- Viruses in particular can live for several days on hard surfaces.

Environmental hygiene and the guidance in this document is followed by all school staff.

- All stakeholders are reminded to wash their hands regularly, particularly after coughing or sneezing, blowing their nose, after using the toilet and before eating.
- Covering their nose and mouth when sneezing by putting their face into their arm.
- Staff and children are asked not attend school if they may have an infectious illness/disease.
- If children feel ill during the school day staff are asked to advice the school office who will make contact with pupils' parents/guardians who will be contacted.
- Staff who feel unwell are asked to speak to the Co-Headteachers or in their absence the Assistant Headteacher. Staff are encouraged not to come in to work or stay at work if they may have an infectious disease.

Exposure to contagious diseases

If Covid related then the school will refer to the most recent government guidance - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities>

- Guidance regarding the incubation period of contagious diseases can be found here - https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1070910/UKHSA-should-I-keep-my-child-off-school-guidance-A3-poster.pdf and is followed to reduce likelihood of spread.
- All staff are provided with basic information and instruction on good hygiene practice
- In the event of an outbreak staff are encouraged to verify their own immunisations with their GP.

- The school follows local procedures that are in place to manage a 'notifiable disease' or positive case of COVID-19.
- Staff always exercise good hygiene practice – hand-washing facilities available throughout the school (warm water and hand soap)
- Staff encouraged to ensure that all cuts and abrasions are covered by waterproof dressings.
- Cleaning regime in place within the school, including fixtures, fittings and furnishings and toys and equipment to reduce cross contamination
- Cleaning chemicals and PPE, including disposable gloves and aprons, available.
- Occupied spaces are well ventilated.
- Possible exposure to infectious individuals is minimised through reducing the frequency and duration of close contact as much as possible.

Exposure to blood borne virus or bodily fluid

All spillages of blood, faeces, saliva, vomit, nasal and eye discharges are cleaned up immediately.

- Staff wear disposable gloves where exposure is possible, and wear a disposable apron where there is a risk of splashing or contamination with blood/bodily fluids (such as nappy changing)
- Appropriate cleaning chemical used to clean the spillage. Suitable equipment and materials are available from the office.
- Mops not used – spillages cleaned by using disposable paper towels or appropriate spill kit which contains absorbent granules to absorb liquid. Correct PPE is worn (gloves and apron, mask if appropriate).
- All cuts, abrasions or any area of broken skin must be covered with wash-proof dressing.
- Children's soiled linen is bagged to be returned home, never rinsed by hand. If necessary then staff allowed to go home to shower and change.

Sharps/Needle Stick Injury

Sharps bin available, conforming to relevant standards

- Staff trained in disposal of sharps.
- Sharps bin kept off the floor and out of the reach of authorised persons.
- First aid arrangements in place to deal with any needle stick injuries.
- Visual inspections of areas are completed prior to use, including outdoor play areas, for any evidence of potential sharps hazards. The area is isolated until any identified hazards have been safely discarded and an enhanced inspection regime of the area found is put in place to monitor future contamination.

Animals in school

Consideration is given to animal-borne virus spread by contact, scratching or biting or psychological impact due to fear/anxiety.

The school will not host animals deemed to be of higher risk, such as monkeys, apes, poisonous reptiles or those which are not suitable for handling/petting.

- The school will ensure that any allergies or phobias of the children or staff are considered and risk assessed accordingly.

- Guidance from CLEAPPS will be sought relating to specific animals to ensure the needs of the animal can be met
- Animals visiting school will be sourced from reputable providers.
- Members of staff will be appointed to take responsibility for the environment, health and welfare of the animal and a proper care programme established.
- Children will be provided with information and instruction on how to handle the animal. Appropriate levels of close supervision will be in place.
- All those who handle or come in to contact with the animal or its environment will have access, and use, hand washing facilities. Younger children will be supervised when washing hands to ensure it is done thoroughly.
- Those who are coming in to contact with an animal will ensure that cuts, abrasions or any broken skin will be covered.
- Pregnant women may be excluded from activities where necessary to reduce the risk of infection to both themselves and the unborn baby.
- Any contaminated surfaces will be properly washed and disinfected.
- Any waste generated following animal-based activities will be disposed of suitably.
- The cage/aquarium etc of the animal will be maintained and regularly visually inspected to check for defects and will be subject to an appropriate cleaning regime.
- Appropriate public liability cover in place which covers animals on site

Clinical waste

Arrangements in place to ensure that domestic and clinical waste are separated where possible.

- Contaminated items are double bagged and included in the normal waste stream if there is no clinical waste facility available.
- Used nappies, sanitary pads, gloves, aprons or soiled dressings, etc are stored in correct clinical waste bags, in foot operated bins.
- Clinical waste bags are emptied when reaching around 2/3 full and are secured from unauthorised access.
- Clinical Waste disposal arrangements in place through a registered waste contractor.
- Specific arrangements in place for managing COVID-19 waste in line with cleaning of nonhealthcare settings.
 - Dedicated safe systems of work in place for first aid/intimate care and cleaning

April 2022 to be reviewed annually