Frome Vale Academy

Infection Control Approach 2025/2026

Statement of Intent

At Frome Vale Academy it is our aim to minimise the spread of infection for staff and children through the implementation of controls which reduce the transmission and spread of germs. We aim to promote and maintain the health of children and staff through the control of infectious illnesses.

Aims

- We aim to control infection by providing on-going infection control training for staff and children (handwashing, food hygiene, cleaning).
- Exclusion guidelines as recommended by Public Health England https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance_on_infection_control_in%20schools_poster.pdf
- Parents, staff and visitors will be informed, and guidance given in the event of an outbreak of any contagious illness or of an outbreak of an infection such as pandemic influenza.

Procedures

Reporting/Recording of illness:

- Staff will report any infectious illness to the Principal or Operations Manager.
- The Principal or Operations Manager will report an outbreak of any infectious disease to the H&S Manager, who may refer us to the HSE.
- The Principal or Operations Manager will record all details of illness reported to them by staff or reported by parents of a child attending the school. These details will include the name, symptoms, dates and duration of illness.

Exclusion from the school:

- Children who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people, where they can.
- The Government has advised that children and young people aged 18 and under should not be tested for Covid-19 unless directed to do so by a medical professional. As COVID-19 presents a low risk to children and young people, combined with high vaccination rates in the population, there are no longer specific rules relating to it in schools, colleges, childcare and other education settings.
- Children and young people with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, who are otherwise well, can continue to go to school, college or childcare.
- Adults are no longer required to do a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test if they have symptoms. Adults with a positive COVID-19 test result are advised to try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for five days, which is when they are most infectious.
- A doctor's certificate may be required for certain conditions to ensure they are no longer contagious before children return to the academy.
- Children should remain at home if they are suffering from general diarrhoea or vomiting until 48 hours after being symptom free.

Hand Hygiene and PPE:

- Hand washing facilities are always available for children and include hot (not exceeding 43 degrees) and cold water, liquid soap and paper hand towels. In addition, hand sanitiser is provided on entry to the school, classrooms and all key areas throughout the school.
- Hand washing facilities are available in all toilets, the first aid area, kitchens and classrooms
- Children are encouraged and reminded to wash their hands after using the toilet, before eating and after playing outside and hands are sanitised before entering the school and classrooms.
- Staff must wash their hands:

- before preparing or serving food
- before feeding children
- before eating or drinking
- after going to the toilet
- after assisting children at the toilet
- after nappy changing
- after dealing with any body fluids
- after cleaning procedures
- after caring for sick children
- after handling soiled clothing or items
- after dealing with waste
- after removing disposable gloves and/or aprons.

- Hand washing technique: Wet hands under hot water (not exceeding 43C for children to prevent scalding), apply liquid soap, rub vigorously paying particular attention to palms, backs, wrists, fingernails and fingers and rubbing between each finger and around the thumbs, rinse, dry thoroughly using disposable paper towels and turn off taps using the paper towel.
- PPE has been provided for use by all staff in the school.

<u>Toilets:</u>

- Toilet areas, including toilet handles, doors, toilet seats and wash hand basins are cleaned frequently in accordance with the cleaning schedule and immediately if soiled.
- Nappy changing is only carried out in the designated nappy changing area.
- Parents will provide creams or lotions for their child, these will not be shared.
- The changing mat and area will be cleaned (with hot water and detergent) and disinfected and dried thoroughly after use.
- Disposable gloves are worn by staff when changing a nappy.
- Soiled nappies are placed in an impervious bag which is tied and disposed of in a lidded bin and emptied each day.
- The nappy changing area is cleaned in accordance with the cleaning schedule.

- Changing mats are regularly checked to ensure the cover is not cracked or torn. Changing mats will be discarded of in such an event.

Bodily Fluid Spillage

- Spills of blood, vomit, urine or excreta will be cleaned up as quickly as possible. The area will be sectioned off if possible until the spill has been dealt with.
- Each classroom has a cleaning product that combines both a detergent and a disinfectant to be effective against viruses and is suitable for use on carpets or other surfaces. This is for immediate use until the cleaning staff are able to effectively clean and disinfect the affected area.
- Disposable plastic gloves are worn when cleaning up any bodily fluid spillage. Paper towels are used to clean up spillages and placed directly into a plastic bag for disposal.
- Appropriate cleaning products are used for cleaning and disinfection of bodily fluid spillages. This solution should not make contact with skin. If accidental contact does occur, the skin, eyes or mouth should be flushed with cold water.
- Disposable paper towels and gloves, are disposed of in a plastic bag and sealed.

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Cleaning

- All areas are cleaned daily as directed. In the event of a higher than normal number of illnesses, we will begin our more frequent cleaning regime in high footfall areas such as toilets and classrooms.
  All cleaning equipment is kept separate to each area and easily distinguished e.g. colour coded.

Animals

- Children must wash their hands after playing with pets.
- Pet's feeding bowls are not accessible to KS1 children
- The play area is inspected before use and cleaned of any pet/wild animal droppings or soil.

- All pet animals are free of disease and have appropriate health checks.
- Children will never be left alone with a pet.