



Policy on Infectious Diseases

Schools are common sites for the transmission of infectious diseases.

The prevention of diseases in school is more likely to be successful if the following is implemented:

1. Effective hand washing is used at every opportunity.
2. All pupils and staff are appropriately immunised.
3. Any unwell staff member or pupil is excluded from school.

(Extract from H.S.E. "Management of Infectious diseases in schools" October 2014.)

Aims for Scoil Mhuire's Policy

1. To foster awareness among staff and students of common and serious infectious diseases which may occur in school.
2. To provide guidance in the prevention and management of infectious diseases which may occur within the school.
3. To educate staff and students in key methods of preventing the transmission of infectious diseases including:
 - First aid training and familiarity with first aid kits, their location, and procedures.
 - The importance of good hand washing and good general hygiene in preventing the transmission of gastrointestinal and respiratory tract infections is highlighted through the use of signage in toilet and kitchen areas.
 - The cough/sneeze etiquette i.e. sneeze or cough into a tissue or, if there are no tissues into the elbow, and not into the face of the next person.
 - To isolate any student with a suspected infectious condition and notify her parent/guardian to collect the student.
 - The use of liquid soap dispensers, air dryers, disposal bins and careful use of sanitary bins.
 - To supervise sick students until a parent/guardian can collect the student.

- To ensure the appropriate procedures are followed in the event of a medical incident of any kind.

Blood precautions:

Care must be taken with blood at all times. Any blood spills following an accident/incident or nosebleed should be cleaned up quickly, carefully and thoroughly with the use of rubber gloves and disinfectants.

Any exposure to another person's eyes, mouth, broken or irritated skin must be evaluated by a GP or medical person. However, if the skin is not broken simply washing it with soap and water is adequate. The mouth and/or eyes should be thoroughly washed out.

Blood-stained clothing should be bagged and washed in the student/staff member's home.

Care must be adhered to in the bathrooms to leave the cubicles clean for the next person and to correctly use the sanitary bins.

Vomitus:

Should any staff member or student become unwell in school the area of vomitus should be covered up like blood, then cleaned up with the use of rubber gloves, disinfectants and if possible, a deodoriser used.

Food hygiene:

Staff and students must be aware of the importance of the correct preparation and storage of food to minimise the risk of food poisoning. Informative signs are present in the kitchen areas.

Confidentiality:

Pupils and staff have a legal right to confidentiality regarding their medical details. However, it is equally important for parents/guardians to disclose any medical information that the school may need to know for the health and safety of the student, and the other staff and students in the school in the event of any incident.

Reviewed by Board of Management: 18th January 2024