



SENtre Infection Control Policy

Keeping Children Safe

Abstract

This document outlines the processes and procedures in place to keep children safe and healthy

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Policy Title: Infection Control Policy

Approved by: Charnel Conway MD

Review Date: 26/02/2027

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure effective infection prevention and control (IPC) within SENtre. It aims to protect pupils, staff, families, and visitors from the spread of infection; promote good hygiene and safe working practices; and ensure compliance with UK legislation and public health guidance.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all staff (permanent, temporary, and agency), all pupils attending SENtre, and all volunteers, contractors, and visitors.

3. Policy Statement

SENtre is committed to maintaining a clean, safe, and healthy environment. We recognise that pupils with autism and complex needs may require tailored support to understand and engage in hygiene routines. All infection control measures will therefore be implemented with sensitivity to sensory differences and communication needs.

4. Responsibilities

4.1 Management

- Ensure this policy is implemented and reviewed annually.
- Provide appropriate training and resources for staff.
- Ensure cleaning schedules and hygiene checks are in place.
- Liaise with Public Health authorities in case of outbreaks.

4.2 Staff

- Follow infection control procedures at all times.
- Encourage and support pupils to participate in hygiene routines.
- Report any concerns about hygiene, illness, or infection immediately.

4.3 Pupils

Pupils are supported to practise hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette in ways appropriate to their individual needs and understanding.

5. Infection Control Measures

5.1 Hand Hygiene

Staff and pupils must wash or sanitise hands on arrival and before leaving SENtre, before eating, after using the toilet, after coughing/sneezing, and after contact with bodily fluids or contaminated items. Visual supports are used to teach and reinforce routines.

5.2 Cleaning and Disinfection

SENtre will maintain a daily cleaning schedule including frequent-touch surfaces. Approved cleaning products meeting BS EN standards are used. Equipment, toys, and sensory items are cleaned regularly.

5.3 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Gloves and aprons are worn when there is a risk of contact with bodily fluids. Masks or visors may be used during outbreaks or as required by risk assessment.

5.4 Waste Disposal

Clinical and general waste are disposed of safely and in line with local authority regulations. Nappy changing areas are sanitised after each use.

5.5 Respiratory Hygiene

'Catch it, bin it, kill it' posters are displayed. Tissues and bins with lids are available. Pupils are supported as needed with coughing, sneezing, or nose wiping.

6. Exclusion and Return to SENtre

The following exclusion periods apply in line with UK Health Security Agency guidance:

Illness	Minimum Time Away from SENtre
Diarrhoea and/or vomiting	48 hours after last episode
Chickenpox	Until all spots have crusted over
Impetigo	Until lesions are crusted/healed or 48 hours after antibiotics start
COVID-19	Stay home while unwell; return after recovery and 48 hours fever-free
Flu-like illness	Until fully recovered
Conjunctivitis	Exclude only if severe or as advised by GP
Head lice	Exclusion until clear; treatment required
Hand, foot and mouth disease	Exclude if unwell

Parents and carers will be notified immediately if a pupil becomes unwell at SENtre.

7. Outbreak Management

Any suspected outbreak (two or more linked cases of the same infection) will be reported to the local Health Protection Team. Records of incidents, cleaning actions, and communication will be maintained.

8. Training

All staff will receive infection control training during induction and annual refreshers, covering hand hygiene, PPE, cleaning, waste management, and responding to illness or outbreaks.

9. Communication with Families

SENtre will share relevant health updates and guidance with parents and carers. Individual health or infection control plans will be developed where pupils have particular vulnerabilities.

10. Monitoring and Review

The Designated Health and Safety Lead will conduct regular hygiene audits. Incident reports and absences will be monitored for patterns of infection. This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if guidance changes.

11. Related Policies and Documents

- Health and Safety Policy
- First Aid and Medication Policy
- Pupil Wellbeing and Safeguarding Policy
- Cleaning and Premises Management Procedures

Signed: _____

Role: _____

Date: _____