



NOAH'S ARK HIV/AIDS POLICY

The facts about HIV/AIDS

AIDS stands for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. This is a condition in which the body's natural defences are severely damaged by infection with a virus called HIV – Human Immunodeficiency Virus. You can only have AIDS if you are already HIV positive. AIDS is not one illness; it is a syndrome of about 30 different conditions including certain rare serious infections and cancers, some of which may together indicate a diagnosis of AIDS. Some people may be infected with the HIV virus for many years and not develop AIDS; others will develop AIDS fairly quickly after infection. It is not yet possible to state what percentage of those who are infected with the HIV virus will develop AIDS.

HIV is found in body fluids, especially in blood, semen and vaginal fluids. It lives only very briefly outside the body. It is spread by an infected person through sexual intercourse, sharing needles and/or syringes and from a pregnant mother to her baby during or before birth or, very rarely, through breast feeding. Tears, sweat and saliva contain only tiny traces of the virus, and no one has been infected by these body fluids. The HIV virus cannot be passed on by using the same lavatory, sharing cups or cutlery, touching or even kissing an infected person. Nor can it be transmitted through swimming or paddling pools.

The virus is relatively weak and can live outside the body only for a short period of time. It is killed by the use of diluted bleach or other disinfectant. Normal hygiene practice and precautions should eliminate any risk there may be. Remember, the virus can only spread in very specific circumstances – when the body fluids of an infected person come into contact with the body fluids of another person. The two main ways this happens are from the practice of unprotected sex and from the shared use of needles for drug use.

Normal hygiene precautions are aimed at the prevention and control of ANY illness whether it originates from an infestation (e.g. worms), a bacterial or a viral source. These infections include the normal childhood illnesses, Hepatitis B, Meningitis and food poisoning such as Salmonella and Listeria.

We aim to protect the members of our nursery school from infection and to provide a safe environment for children and adults with allergies. All members of staff are required to follow our Code of Practice for Hygiene and Infection Control which we restate here:

The Code of Practice for Hygiene and Infection Control

- Wash up thoroughly in hot water and detergent. Use gloves routinely. (You can stand hotter water that way and you won't have to remember to put them on specially if you have a cut).
- Use clean drying up cloths and change them every day.
- Use different cleaning cloths for kitchen and bathroom. Wash and disinfect or renew these regularly.
- Wash hands before and after handling food.
- Make sure any frozen food is properly defrosted and cooked through.
- Throw away any leftovers.
- Wash hands after using the lavatory.
- Cover cuts, whether on adults or children, with sticking plaster or other dressing.

- Wipe up spills of blood, vomit or excrement and flush away down the lavatory. Always use rubber gloves when cleaning up spills of body fluids. Floors and other affected surfaces should be disinfected using bleach diluted according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Wash fabrics contaminated with body fluids by using the hot cycle in a washing machine or at the launderette. Secure children's soiled clothes in a plastic bag and send home with them.
- Keep polythene bags handy in which to wrap soiled garments.
- Keep spare laundered pants, and other clothing, available in case of accidents.
- Ensure toothbrushes are not shared.
- Don't allow children with pierced ears to try on or share each other's earrings.
- Keep a large box of tissues available and encourage children to blow and wipe their noses when necessary. Make sure soiled tissues are disposed of hygienically.
- Encourage children to shield their mouths when coughing and sneezing.
- Keep an adequately stocked First Aid Box – including disposable gloves.
- Enter every accident in the Accident Book.
- Encourage children to always wash their hands before and after eating and after using the lavatory.
- Parents should be encouraged to keep their children at home if they have a temperature, a runny cold or cough or are suffering from any illness that could spread to other children.

Our commitment to those with HIV/AIDS

We would like to know if a child is HIV positive or if they have AIDS or any other serious illness so that we can provide as much help as possible. This will be treated as privileged information and will be passed on only to those who need to know, at the Head of Noah's Ark Nursery Schools discretion. We would also like to know if any immediate members of the family are HIV positive or are suffering from AIDS or any other major health problems so that we can offer our fullest support.

Any member of staff who is HIV/AIDS positive is required to make this known to the Head of Noah's Ark Nursery Schools. As is the case with all major illnesses, all colleagues will be advised so that due support can be given. Based on current advice, normal hygiene practice and precautions are deemed sufficient to afford appropriate protection to children and adults alike.

Annette Miller
 Reviewed and Revised January 2009
 Reviewed January 2011

CONCLUSION

The Governors and Staff of the School are committed to keeping this policy under regular review and the Governor responsible will ensure that the matters contained herein are regularly discussed and further developed to the benefit of all users.

Signed :

Mr Charlie Colchester
Chairman of the Board of Governors