

## Fosse Way School

### HIV/AIDS awareness, confidentiality and infection control.

#### Policy for staff guidance

#### **Awareness**

HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) is the virus that causes AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome). A person with the HIV virus can be said to be 'HIV positive', not all of those who are infected will necessarily develop full-blown AIDS. Many will have no symptoms at all, they may look and feel healthy for a long time, (sometimes 10 years or more) but they can still pass on the virus.

AIDS causes a breakdown in the body's immune system and makes the person vulnerable to serious infections and illnesses. At present there is no cure.

Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C are viruses that cause inflammation of the liver.

HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C are all blood born viruses; they cannot be passed on through casual contact. The viruses can only be passed to another person if there is a way that the blood or body fluids of an infected person can get directly into his or her bloodstream. They are mainly passed on through sexual contact with an infected person or through sharing contaminated needles. There have been no recorded cases of transmission of the HIV virus through such routes as spitting, kissing, coughing, or sharing of cutlery. Precautions do need to be taken, however in first aid procedures, in avoiding contamination from any bodily fluid and in avoiding puncture of the skin with a possible contaminated sharp instrument e.g. needle.

Although HIV is not easily transmitted Hepatitis B is. Hepatitis B is the only blood borne virus for which there is a vaccine to provide protection, all staff are advised to contact their G.P and have this vaccination. Five yearly checks on immunity are advised.

#### **Confidentiality**

The knowledge that a person or child has HIV or AIDS is confidential and as such is not disclosed to staff.

#### **Infection control**

Because it is not possible to identify all people who may be infected with the blood-borne viruses guidance to protect staff is based on the principle of 'universal precautions'.

By assuming that all blood or bodily fluids is potentially infectious staff protect themselves from infection and avoid making an infected pupils any different to his peers.

i.e All blood and body fluids should be regard as potentially infectious and appropriate protective actions taken.

- Wash hands immediately if in direct contact with blood or bodily fluids, and avoid hand to mouth / eye contact.
- Wear gloves when contact with blood or bodily fluids, mucous membranes or non-intact skin is anticipated and wash hands after their removal.
- Prevent puncture wounds, cuts and abrasions in the presence of blood and bodily fluids.
- Protect skin lesions and existing wounds by means of waterproof dressings and / or gloves.
- Avoid use of, or exposure to, sharps and sharp objects when possible but, where unavoidable, take particular care in their handling and disposal. Disposing of needles and sharps in rigid 'sharps' boxes
- For any accidental piercing of skin with a potentially contaminated instrument, encourage bleeding at the site and wash thoroughly with soap and water.
- Clear up any spills of bodily fluids or blood promptly, a 1 in 10 household bleach solution or a specifically prepared cleaner should be used on hard surfaces. Gloves should be worn for this procedure and disposable paper towels used. For larger spillage's commercial kits can be purchased and should be available in all establishments.
- Dressings likely to be contaminated with blood or bodily fluids and towels used for wiping spillage's should be placed in yellow clinical waste bags and placed in a central clinical waste collection point for collection by an approved collector.
- Soiled linen should be kept separate and washed at a high temperature; (at least 80C

All staff need to be familiar with the above measures. Pupils are given information about blood borne diseases and ways of preventing infection in Sex Education for when it is relevant.

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Review +3 yrs