INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL POLICY

Preventing infection. Protecting health. Supporting safe participation.



RIVERSIDE BRIDGE SCHOOL

INSPIRE, EMPOWER, ACHIEVE

This policy forms part of the Riverside Bridge School Policy Framework and should be read alongside any related policies, procedures and guidance.

RIVERSIDE BRIDGE SCHOOL
INSPIRE, EMPOWER, ACHIEVE

OUR COMMITMENT

At Riverside Bridge School, every policy reflects our commitment to creating a safe, inclusive and ambitious school community in which every pupil is valued, every voice matters and every family is respected and supported.

Our policies translate our values into consistent practice. They support high expectations, clear responsibilities, effective partnership and informed decision-making, ensuring that the needs, rights, wellbeing and future outcomes of our pupils remain at the heart of our work.

We work collaboratively, act with integrity and continually reflect upon and improve our practice to achieve the best possible outcomes for every pupil.

POLICY PRINCIPLES

Our Policy Principles underpin how we work together and guide the decisions and actions we take to support every pupil and their families.



POLICY PURPOSE & FRAMEWORK

Riverside Bridge School policies set out the expectations, responsibilities and approaches that support safe, consistent and high-quality practice across the school. They translate our values, statutory responsibilities and professional expectations into clear guidance for everyday decision-making and practice.

Each policy forms part of the Riverside Bridge School Policy Framework and should be read alongside any related policies, procedures, statutory guidance and school frameworks referenced within the document.

Policies apply to the members of the school community identified within each document, including staff, governors, parents and carers, volunteers, contractors and other professionals where relevant. Everyone is expected to understand and apply the requirements appropriate to their role and to seek further guidance where clarification is required.

CURRICULUM DRIVERS



Our Drivers provide a shared golden thread across curriculum, school life, policy and leadership, helping ensure that our decisions and practice remain focused on the experiences and futures we want for every pupil.

STATEMENT OF INTENT

This policy sets out Riverside Bridge School's approach to infection prevention and control. It establishes the principles, responsibilities and arrangements through which the school seeks to prevent and reduce the transmission of infection, protect the health and wellbeing of the school community and maintain safe access to education, care and wider school life.

Riverside Bridge School is committed to providing a safe, healthy and inclusive environment that minimises the risk of infection for pupils, staff, visitors and others participating in school activities. Effective infection prevention and control is a shared responsibility and forms an integral part of the school's wider safeguarding, healthcare, health and safety and wellbeing arrangements.

As a specialist school supporting pupils with complex special educational needs and disabilities, we recognise that many pupils require close physical support, intimate care, feeding assistance, therapeutic intervention and specialist healthcare throughout the school day. These essential aspects of provision can increase opportunities for infection transmission and require consistent, proportionate and evidence-informed infection prevention measures.

We also recognise that infection prevention measures must support, rather than unnecessarily restrict, pupils' participation in education. Arrangements will therefore take account of individual medical needs, vulnerabilities, communication and sensory needs, reasonable adjustments and the importance of maintaining access to learning, therapy, personal care and wider school experiences wherever it is safe to do so.

The school will promote effective hygiene practices, maintain appropriate standards of environmental cleanliness, manage infection risks proportionately and respond promptly to suspected or confirmed infectious illness and outbreaks. We will work with families, healthcare professionals, the UK Health Security Agency, the Local Authority and other relevant agencies where specialist advice or coordinated action is required.

This policy establishes the overarching expectations for infection prevention and control. Detailed operational requirements, including cleaning arrangements, use of personal protective equipment, management of bodily fluids, outbreak response and other infection-control procedures, are established through the school's Infection Prevention & Control Manual and associated procedures.

Our responsibilities to pupils

We will ensure that infection prevention arrangements protect pupils' health, dignity and wellbeing while enabling them to participate as fully as possible in education, healthcare, therapy, personal care and wider school life. Measures will be proportionate to identified risk and responsive to pupils' individual needs.

We will support pupils to develop their understanding and independence in relation to hygiene and self-care wherever this is appropriate to their age, developmental stage and communication profile. Where pupils are unable to manage aspects of infection prevention independently, appropriately trained staff will provide the support necessary to maintain their safety and dignity.

Through these commitments, Riverside Bridge School aims to maintain an environment in which infection risks are identified, reduced and managed effectively without creating unnecessary barriers to pupils' participation. We will continue to strengthen infection prevention practice through effective leadership, staff training, partnership working, monitoring and learning from experience.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

01	PURPOSE AND SCOPE	02	LEGISLATIVE AND PROFESSIONAL FRAMEWORK
03	PRINCIPLES OF INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL	04	ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
05	INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL ARRANGEMENTS	06	INCLUSION, MEDICAL NEEDS AND PERSONAL CARE
07	OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT AND BUSINESS CONTINUITY	08	MONITORING, EVALUATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT
09	RELATED POLICIES AND FRAMEWORKS		

APPROVED BY: Governing Board

APPROVED ON: September 2026

REVIEWED DUE ON: September 2027

Section 01

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Defining expectations. Reducing risk. Supporting safe participation.

The purpose of this policy is to establish the strategic framework through which Riverside Bridge School prevents, manages and responds to the risk of infection, ensuring a safe, healthy and inclusive environment for pupils, staff, visitors and the wider school community.

The policy sets out the school's commitment to implementing effective infection prevention and control measures that reduce the transmission of infectious diseases whilst enabling pupils to access education, therapeutic provision, personal care and healthcare safely. It recognises that infection prevention is a shared responsibility requiring effective leadership, robust governance and consistent practice across all areas of the school.

As a specialist setting supporting pupils with complex Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), Riverside Bridge School acknowledges that many pupils require close physical support, intimate care, feeding assistance, specialist medical interventions and therapeutic input. Infection prevention arrangements must therefore be proportionate, person-centred and responsive to individual health needs, enabling pupils to participate fully in school life wherever it is safe and appropriate to do so. This reflects national guidance that infection prevention measures should interrupt the chain of transmission whilst supporting children and young people to continue their care and education safely.

This policy supports the school's wider responsibilities for safeguarding, health and safety, equality, attendance and wellbeing by promoting:

- high standards of hygiene and environmental cleanliness;
- effective management of infectious illnesses and outbreaks;
- protection for vulnerable pupils and staff;
- evidence-informed risk assessment and proportionate infection control measures;
- partnership working with families, healthcare professionals and public health agencies;
- continuous monitoring and improvement of infection prevention practice.

This policy should be read alongside the Infection Prevention & Control Manual, which contains the operational procedures, protocols and guidance required to implement the principles set out within this policy, together with the school's Health and Safety Policy, Medical Needs, Medication and Allergy Safety Policy, Risk Assessment and Risk Management Policy, Emergency Management and Business Continuity Policy, and other related operational procedures.

Section 02

LEGISLATIVE & PROFESSIONAL FRAMEWORK

Meeting duties. Following guidance. Maintaining safe practice.

Riverside Bridge School is committed to maintaining effective infection prevention and control arrangements in accordance with current legislation, statutory guidance and recognised professional standards. The school will ensure that its arrangements are reviewed regularly and updated to reflect changes in legislation, public health advice and emerging best practice.

This policy has been developed with regard to relevant legislation, statutory guidance and national public health guidance, including:

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations 2002
- Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 2013
- Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984
- Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010
- Equality Act 2010
- Children Act 1989 and 2004
- Education Act 2002
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice: 0–25 years
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)
- UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA): Health protection in children and young people settings, including education
- Department for Education guidance
- NHS Infection Prevention and Control guidance
- Food Standards Agency guidance, where relevant to food preparation and hygiene.

The school recognises that infection prevention and control extend beyond hygiene practices alone. It encompasses effective leadership, risk management, environmental cleanliness, personal protective measures, health surveillance, outbreak management and collaborative working with healthcare professionals and public health agencies.

National guidance promotes a proactive and preventative approach, recognising that effective infection prevention measures interrupt the chain of transmission whilst enabling children and young people to continue accessing education safely wherever possible.

As a specialist SEND setting, Riverside Bridge School applies this framework proportionately to reflect the complex health, medical, therapeutic and personal care needs of its pupils.

The school recognises that infection prevention arrangements must support, rather than unnecessarily restrict, pupils' access to education, communication, therapy, personal care and wider school life through the implementation of appropriate individual risk assessments and reasonable adjustments.

The operational arrangements through which these legislative duties are implemented are set out within the Infection Prevention & Control Manual and associated procedures, which provide detailed guidance for staff on the safe management of infection risks across all areas of school practice.

Section 03

PRINCIPLES OF INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Preventing transmission. Managing risk. Promoting inclusion.

Riverside Bridge School is committed to maintaining a culture in which infection prevention and control is recognised as a shared responsibility and an essential component of safeguarding, health and safety, high-quality education and pupil wellbeing. The following principles underpin all infection prevention and control arrangements across the school.

Prevention first

The school adopts a proactive approach to infection prevention, recognising that effective hygiene practices, environmental cleanliness, appropriate ventilation, public health measures including immunisation, education and early intervention can significantly reduce the transmission of infectious diseases."

Safe, inclusive and person-centred practice

Infection prevention arrangements will support, rather than unnecessarily restrict, pupils' participation in education. Measures will be proportionate to identified risks and adapted to reflect individual health needs, medical conditions, communication needs and levels of independence, ensuring that pupils continue to access learning, therapy and personal care safely wherever possible.

Standard infection prevention precautions

The school will apply standard infection prevention precautions consistently across all areas of school life. Good hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene, environmental cleaning, safe use of personal protective equipment (PPE), appropriate management of blood and bodily fluids, waste disposal and safe working practices form the foundation of effective infection prevention.

Partnership working

Effective infection prevention relies upon collaborative working between pupils, families, staff, governors, healthcare professionals, contractors and public health agencies. The school will work closely with the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), NHS services, Local Authority partners and other relevant professionals to ensure that infection prevention arrangements remain responsive to emerging risks and current public health advice.

Proportionate risk management

The school will undertake proportionate risk assessments that consider both routine activities and emerging situations, enabling infection prevention measures to be adapted where necessary whilst maintaining access to education, therapeutic provision and wider school life.

Continuous improvement

The school is committed to regularly reviewing infection prevention arrangements through monitoring, audit, staff training, incident review and quality assurance. Lessons learned from outbreaks, incidents, professional guidance and changes in legislation will inform the continuous development of practice, ensuring that infection prevention arrangements remain effective, evidence-informed and appropriate to the needs of Riverside Bridge School.

Section 04

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Defining accountability. Sharing responsibility. Maintaining oversight.

Effective infection prevention and control relies upon a whole-school approach in which all members of the school community understand their responsibilities and contribute to maintaining a safe, healthy and inclusive environment.

The Governing Board is responsible for:

- ensuring appropriate governance and strategic oversight of infection prevention and control;
- approving this policy and monitoring its effectiveness;
- seeking assurance that statutory duties relating to health, safety and infection prevention are fulfilled;
- ensuring appropriate resources are available to support effective infection prevention arrangements;
- receiving reports on significant infection-related incidents, outbreaks and compliance where appropriate.

The Headteacher has overall responsibility for ensuring that effective infection prevention and control arrangements are implemented throughout the school. This includes ensuring:

- compliance with relevant legislation and national guidance;
- appropriate leadership and allocation of responsibilities;
- suitable staffing, training and resources;
- effective liaison with public health authorities and healthcare professionals where required;
- proportionate responses to infectious illnesses and outbreaks;
- regular review of infection prevention arrangements.

The Senior Leadership Team is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day implementation of this policy by:

- promoting a positive culture of infection prevention;
- ensuring operational procedures are implemented consistently;
- supporting staff to undertake appropriate risk assessments;
- monitoring compliance with infection prevention procedures;
- responding to incidents and escalating concerns where necessary;

- ensuring lessons learned from incidents, audits and inspections inform continuous improvement.

The designated Senior Leadership Team lead for health, safety and infection prevention coordinates the school's operational infection prevention arrangements and supports the Headteacher in ensuring that the requirements of this policy are implemented consistently. The designated lead will work with the Healthcare Assistant, site team, cleaning providers, healthcare professionals and other relevant staff to ensure that operational arrangements remain effective and responsive to identified risks. This includes:

- coordinating implementation of the Infection Prevention & Control Manual;
- monitoring infection prevention practice and identified risks;
- coordinating appropriate responses to significant infection-related incidents and outbreaks;
- ensuring relevant public health advice is communicated and implemented;
- supporting monitoring, audit and quality assurance;
- escalating significant concerns to the Headteacher and relevant external agencies where required.

All employees are responsible for maintaining high standards of infection prevention and control within the scope of their role. Staff are expected to:

- follow the Infection Prevention & Control Manual and associated procedures;
- maintain appropriate standards of hygiene and safe working practices;
- use personal protective equipment (PPE) appropriately where required by risk assessment;
- report infectious illnesses, hazards, incidents and concerns promptly;
- participate in mandatory training;
- contribute to maintaining a safe and healthy environment for pupils, colleagues and visitors.

Healthcare professionals, therapists and other specialist staff will work collaboratively with school staff to ensure infection prevention measures support pupils' individual medical, therapeutic and personal care needs. Where appropriate, they will contribute to individual healthcare plans, risk assessments and specialist advice to enable pupils to access education safely whilst minimising infection risks.

Site staff, cleaning contractors and catering personnel are responsible for implementing the infection prevention procedures relevant to their roles, including maintaining appropriate standards of environmental hygiene, food hygiene, waste management, equipment maintenance and cleaning in accordance with school procedures and contractual requirements.

Parents and carers play an important role in supporting infection prevention by:

- following school guidance regarding infectious illnesses and exclusion periods;

- informing the school promptly of significant infectious diseases or changes to their child's health;
- supporting good hygiene practices;
- working in partnership with the school to protect the health and wellbeing of the wider school community.

Where appropriate to their age, developmental stage and communication needs, **pupils** will be encouraged and supported to develop an understanding of good hygiene practices, personal responsibility and healthy behaviours, promoting increasing independence as part of their preparation for adulthood.

Section 05

INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL ARRANGEMENTS

Preventing infection. Maintaining hygiene. Responding proportionately.

Riverside Bridge School is committed to implementing proportionate, evidence-informed infection prevention and control arrangements that protect the health and wellbeing of pupils, staff and visitors whilst supporting full participation in education. The school adopts a preventative approach that reflects national guidance and is responsive to the needs of a specialist SEND environment.

Promoting good hygiene

The school will promote high standards of personal hygiene throughout the school community. Effective hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene and good personal hygiene practices will be encouraged through teaching, modelling, environmental prompts and routine practice, recognising that these measures are among the most effective methods of reducing the spread of infection. Pupils will be supported to develop independence in hygiene practices wherever appropriate to their age, developmental stage and communication needs.

Environmental hygiene

The school will maintain clean, safe and well-maintained learning environments through planned cleaning programmes, effective maintenance arrangements and appropriate environmental controls. Particular attention will be given to areas used for personal care, food preparation, therapy, healthcare and high-contact surfaces to minimise the risk of infection transmission. Cleaning arrangements will reflect current public health guidance and will be enhanced where necessary in response to identified risks or outbreaks.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Personal protective equipment will be provided where required following suitable and sufficient risk assessment. PPE will be used proportionately to the activity being undertaken and the level of identified risk, supporting staff to undertake personal care, healthcare procedures, cleaning and other activities safely whilst maintaining pupils' dignity and participation in school life.

Personal care and medical support

The school recognises that many pupils require personal care, feeding support, intimate care, therapeutic interventions and specialist healthcare procedures.

Infection prevention arrangements will be integrated within these activities through individual healthcare planning, risk assessment and staff training, ensuring that pupils receive safe, high-quality support that reflects their individual needs.

Managing infectious illness

The school will respond promptly and proportionately to cases of infectious illness, balancing the need to reduce transmission with the importance of maintaining access to education wherever it is safe to do so. Decisions regarding attendance, exclusion, return to school and additional infection prevention measures will be informed by current UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) guidance and, where appropriate, advice from healthcare professionals and public health authorities.

Working with public health agencies

Where outbreaks or significant infectious diseases occur, the school will work collaboratively with the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), the Local Authority, NHS services and other relevant agencies to implement appropriate infection prevention measures, protect the school community and support the safe continuation of educational provision.

Detailed requirements for implementing these arrangements are established within the Infection Prevention & Control Manual and associated operational procedures.

Section 06

INCLUSION, MEDICAL NEEDS AND PERSONAL CARE

Responding to need. Protecting dignity. Enabling participation.

Riverside Bridge School recognises that effective infection prevention and control must support the inclusion, dignity and wellbeing of all pupils. As a specialist setting for children and young people with complex Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), many pupils require personalised approaches to healthcare, personal care, therapy and daily living support. Infection prevention arrangements will therefore be proportionate, person-centred and responsive to individual needs, enabling pupils to participate safely in all aspects of school life.

Individual health needs

The school will ensure that infection prevention arrangements reflect pupils' individual medical conditions, healthcare requirements and vulnerabilities. Individual Healthcare Plans, risk assessments and specialist advice will be used to identify appropriate infection prevention measures, enabling pupils to continue accessing education and therapeutic provision safely whilst minimising unnecessary restrictions.

Personal care and intimate care

Many pupils require assistance with personal care, continence management, feeding and intimate care. These activities will be undertaken using appropriate infection prevention measures that protect both pupils and staff whilst maintaining dignity, privacy and respect. Personal care arrangements will be delivered in accordance with individual care plans, risk assessments and the school's operational procedures. National guidance emphasises the importance of effective hand hygiene, appropriate personal protective equipment and designated facilities when supporting toileting and continence care.

Specialist medical and therapeutic support

Where pupils require specialist healthcare procedures or therapeutic interventions, infection prevention measures will reflect the pupil’s Individual Healthcare Plan, relevant clinical guidance and advice from the Nursing Team or other appropriately qualified healthcare professional. Staff undertaking specialist procedures will receive appropriate training and competency assessment and will follow the agreed clinical instructions relevant to the intervention being provided.

Supporting vulnerable individuals

The school recognises that some pupils and members of staff may be more susceptible to infection due to underlying health conditions, immunosuppression or other medical vulnerabilities. Appropriate reasonable adjustments, individual risk assessments and additional infection prevention measures will be implemented where necessary to reduce risk whilst supporting continued participation in education and employment.

Partnership with families and professionals

Effective infection prevention relies upon strong partnership working. The school will work collaboratively with parents and carers, healthcare professionals, therapists, the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), NHS services and other relevant agencies to ensure that infection prevention arrangements remain responsive to individual needs, current public health guidance and emerging risks.

Detailed operational requirements for infection prevention during personal care, healthcare interventions, continence support, feeding and use of specialist equipment are established within the Infection Prevention & Control Manual and relevant individual plans.

Section 07

OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT AND BUSINESS CONTINUITY

Responding promptly. Limiting transmission. Maintaining provision.

Riverside Bridge School recognises that outbreaks of infectious disease have the potential to affect pupils, staff and the continuity of educational provision. The school is committed to responding promptly, proportionately and in accordance with current public health guidance to minimise the impact of infectious disease whilst maintaining a safe learning environment wherever possible.

Early identification and response

The school will maintain arrangements to identify, report and respond promptly to suspected or confirmed cases of infectious disease.

Appropriate action will be taken to reduce the risk of transmission, protect vulnerable individuals and seek specialist advice where necessary. Responses will be proportionate to the nature of the infection, the level of risk and current national guidance.

Partnership with public health agencies

Where required, the school will work closely with the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), the Local Authority, NHS services and other relevant agencies to manage outbreaks and implement any additional infection prevention measures. The school will follow current public health advice regarding reporting arrangements, exclusion guidance, enhanced cleaning, communication and any additional control measures necessary to protect the school community.

Communication

During significant infectious disease incidents or outbreaks, the school will communicate promptly and appropriately with pupils, parents and carers, staff, governors and relevant external agencies. Communications will provide clear, accurate and timely information, ensuring that the school community understands any measures being implemented whilst avoiding unnecessary concern.

Continuity of education

Where infection prevention measures require temporary changes to normal school operations, the school will seek to maintain educational provision and essential support for pupils wherever reasonably practicable. Particular consideration will be given to pupils with complex medical needs, those requiring specialist therapeutic provision and those identified as particularly vulnerable.

Recovery and review

Following any significant outbreak or infectious disease incident, the school will review the effectiveness of its response to identify lessons learned and strengthen future practice. Outcomes from incident reviews, audits and public health advice will inform the ongoing development of infection prevention arrangements and contribute to the school's wider quality assurance processes.

Detailed outbreak response and escalation arrangements are established within the Infection Prevention & Control Manual and the school's Emergency Management and Business Continuity Plan.

Section 08

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Monitoring practice. Learning from incidents. Strengthening provision.

Riverside Bridge School is committed to maintaining effective infection prevention and control arrangements through ongoing monitoring, quality assurance and continuous improvement. Regular evaluation ensures that the school's arrangements remain compliant with current legislation, responsive to emerging public health guidance and appropriate for the needs of a specialist SEND setting.

The effectiveness of this policy will be monitored through a range of quality assurance activities, including:

- review of infection prevention practices across the school;
- monitoring compliance with hygiene, cleaning and personal protective equipment (PPE) procedures;
- review of infection-related incidents, outbreaks and near misses;
- monitoring of staff training and competence;
- monitoring the implementation of agreed infection prevention arrangements within Individual Healthcare Plans and relevant risk assessments;
- feedback from pupils, parents and carers, staff and healthcare professionals;
- internal audits and workplace inspections;
- review of national guidance, public health advice and legislative changes.

The designated Senior Leadership Team member will oversee the implementation and evaluation of this policy, working collaboratively with healthcare professionals, site staff, cleaning contractors and other relevant personnel to identify strengths, address areas for development and ensure that effective infection prevention arrangements are maintained throughout the school.

The Governing Board will receive appropriate assurance that the school's infection prevention and control arrangements continue to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of pupils, staff and visitors, whilst supporting high-quality education, safeguarding and the effective management of infectious disease risks. Operational monitoring, environmental audits, cleaning inspections, training records, incident reporting and outbreak reviews are undertaken in accordance with the Infection Prevention & Control Manual, which supports the implementation of this policy and promotes continuous improvement across all aspects of infection prevention practice.

Section 09

RELATED POLICIES & FRAMEWORKS

Connecting practice. Strengthening consistency.

This policy should be read alongside the following Riverside Bridge School policies, frameworks and operational guidance:

Governance Policies

- Health and Safety Policy
- Medical Needs, Medication and Allergy Safety Policy
- Risk Assessment and Risk Management Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Intimate Care Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Emergency Management and Business Continuity Plan
- Educational Visits Policy
- Food and Drink Policy
- Equality, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy
- SEND Policy

Operational Documents

- Infection Prevention & Control Manual
- Individual Healthcare Plans
- Personal Care and Intimate Care Procedures
- Risk Assessments
- COSHH Assessments
- Cleaning Schedules and Specifications
- Outbreak Management Procedures
- PPE Guidance
- Cleaning and Decontamination Procedures
- Body Fluid Spill Procedures

Review arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually, or sooner where there are significant changes to legislation, national guidance, public health advice or the operational needs of the school.

Associated operational procedures may be updated more frequently to reflect changes in public health or professional guidance, provided that they remain consistent with the principles and requirements established within this policy.