

FOOTSTEPS TRUST INFECTION PREVENTION, CONTROL AND HEALTH PROTECTION POLICY

1. Policy Statement

Footsteps Trust Academy is committed to protecting the health, safety and wellbeing of students, staff, visitors and contractors.

The Academy will take reasonable and proportionate measures to prevent and control the spread of infectious diseases and will follow advice issued by:

- UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA)
- Department for Education (DfE)
- NHS
- Local Authority Public Health Teams

The Academy recognises that managing infection risks contributes to safeguarding and supports student attendance, wellbeing and access to education.

2. Aims

This policy aims to:

- Promote good hygiene practices.
- Reduce risks associated with infectious diseases.
- Support students and staff who become unwell.
- Ensure compliance with health and safety obligations.
- Provide a framework for responding to outbreaks or public health incidents.
- Maintain business continuity during periods of increased illness.

3. Scope

This policy applies to:

- Students
- Staff
- Volunteers
- Visitors

- Contractors

It applies to all Academy activities, including off-site visits and educational provision delivered at alternative locations.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

Principal

The Principal will:

- Ensure appropriate infection control procedures are in place.
- Liaise with relevant public health authorities where required.
- Implement contingency measures during outbreaks.

Health and Safety Lead

The Health and Safety Lead will:

- Monitor infection control arrangements.
- Maintain relevant risk assessments.
- Provide advice and guidance to staff.

Staff

Staff are expected to:

- Promote good hygiene practices.
- Report significant health concerns.
- Follow infection prevention procedures.

Students

Students are expected to:

- Follow hygiene expectations.
- Report illness appropriately.
- Follow staff instructions during health-related incidents.

5. Infection Prevention Measures

The Academy promotes:

Hand Hygiene

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- Regular handwashing with soap and water.
- Use of hand sanitiser where appropriate.
- Hand hygiene before eating and after using toilet facilities.

Respiratory Hygiene

Students and staff will be encouraged to:

- Cover coughs and sneezes.
- Dispose of tissues appropriately.
- Wash hands after coughing or sneezing.

Cleaning

The Academy will maintain:

- Regular cleaning schedules.
- Enhanced cleaning where required.
- Appropriate cleaning of shared equipment and facilities.

Ventilation

Where practicable, indoor spaces will be adequately ventilated to support health and wellbeing.

6. Managing Illness

Students or staff who become unwell during the school day may be:

- Assessed by a member of staff.
- Supervised in an appropriate location.
- Sent home where necessary.

Parents and carers will be contacted where appropriate.

The Academy may seek advice from health professionals where required.

7. COVID-19 Arrangements

At the time of publication, there are no routine COVID-19 testing requirements for schools.

Should national or local public health guidance change, Footsteps Trust Academy will:

- Follow current UKHSA and DfE advice.
- Undertake risk assessments where necessary.

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- Implement proportionate protective measures.
- Communicate arrangements clearly with students, staff and families.

Any future testing arrangements will be managed in accordance with:

- Data Protection legislation.
- Public health requirements.
- Relevant government guidance in force at the time.

8. Data Protection

Any health-related information collected by the Academy will be:

- Processed lawfully.
- Stored securely.
- Shared only where necessary and lawful.
- Managed in accordance with the Academy Data Protection Policy and UK GDPR requirements.

Only information necessary to protect health, safety and welfare will be collected.

9. Safeguarding Considerations

The Academy recognises that illness and health-related absences may sometimes identify wider safeguarding concerns.

Where staff have concerns regarding:

- Neglect
- Attendance
- Medical needs
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Vulnerability

The matter will be referred through safeguarding procedures as appropriate.

10. Equality and Inclusion

Footsteps Trust Academy will ensure that infection control measures are implemented fairly and proportionately.

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Reasonable adjustments will be considered for students and staff with:

- Disabilities
- Medical conditions
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
- Mental health needs

11. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be monitored by the Principal and Health and Safety Lead.

The policy will be reviewed:

- Annually;
- Following significant public health changes;
- Following outbreaks or incidents requiring policy review; or
- When government guidance changes.