

ENROLMENT OF CHILDREN WITH BLOOD BORNE INFECTIOUS DISEASES POLICY

PURPOSE:

This policy is to set down the guidelines when enrolling children with blood borne virus infections; and to set practices in place for the safe management of HIV AIDS, Hep B and C infected children.

KEY PRINCIPLES:

- A child's health status should not affect their right to an education.
- All children should be treated as if they had a blood borne infection.
- All children have the right to privacy.
- The Board has a responsibility to provide a safe working environment for employees, and a safe learning environment for children.

BROAD GUIDELINES:

- Children are to be made aware of safe practice in regard to themselves and/or others when there is blood present.
- Staff need to be aware of and carry out safe practices when treating bleeding injuries.
- Parents of HIV AIDS and Hep B and C affected children shall inform the school on enrolment if infected or a carrier. The Principal, the office staff, and the class teacher are to be informed on a needs to know basis.
- The legal obligations of the Board of Trustees in respect of all pupils and all staff is determined:
 - a) in the various acts and amendments of the Education Act,
 - b) The Human Rights Act 1993 - it is unlawful to discriminate against a pupil with a blood borne virus unless there is an unreasonable risk of harm to pupils or others
 - c) Health and Safety Act 1992 - employers shall take all reasonable steps to ensure safety of employees while at work
 - d) Health regulations on notifiable diseases
 - e) Privacy of Information Act 1993

IMPLEMENTATION:

- The public health nurse will be asked, as needed, to instruct teachers and other staff on safe practices and awareness of blood related diseases.
- Parents are to be made aware of policy on enrolment.
- Teachers are to follow safe practice and assume any and all children are infected.
- School health programme will include coverage of safety practices and awareness of blood borne viruses at an appropriate level.

MANAGEMENT:

- Staff on duty to carry the first aid safety kit and use when required.
- Used gloves and blood soiled materials to be disposed of safely.
- Blood is to be cleaned from all surfaces using appropriate cleaner.
- Cleaning staff to have available cleaning materials and to dispose of blood soiled materials.
- Refer MOE circular 1999/21 Appendix A.

ENROLMENT:

- Parents shall inform Principal on enrolment if child is infected with a blood borne virus. This information will not be included on enrolment form. The information will be available to the class teacher and the office staff.
- A statement is to be included on the enrolment form asking that the Principal be informed. The matter can be discussed in confidence with the Principal.

CONFIDENCE:

- The disclosure of specific information by a staff member, which can identify a pupil, will be considered a serious breach of confidence and may result in disciplinary procedures against the staff member.

Reference: MOE Circular 1999/21 dated 5 July 1999