



Policy Number: 14	
Title: HIV / AIDS Awareness, Confidentiality and Infection Control	
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Signed: 

Mary Hare School HIV / AIDS Awareness, Confidentiality and infection control policy

1. The Children with HIV Association (CHIVA), which is supported by the National Children's Bureau, states that having an HIV infected child in school poses no risk to staff or pupils and there is no known case of an HIV transmission occurring in a school in the United Kingdom. No case has ever been recorded of HIV transmission from child to child by biting, fighting, playing or any other normal childhood interaction. With the advances in medical science, HIV is now seen as a manageable chronic condition¹.

Pupils with HIV / AIDS

2. HIV is a non-notifiable disease, which means that parents or children who are affected or infected may choose to not inform the school. This is because the infected pupil poses no risk to others. There may be occasions when it is necessary to inform staff if a pupil has HIV or AIDS in order to ensure that they are getting appropriate support. Pupils will not be informed.
3. In order for the school to support an infected or affected pupil, they will first provide parents with the reassurance that information will be kept confidential and only discussed on a need-to-know basis, with the parents' consent.

First Aid

4. If an infected child has a cut, this should be dealt with in the normal manner following first aid procedures and standard hygiene practices. This will be effective in preventing transmission of all blood-borne infections, including HIV.

Managing medication

5. If it becomes necessary to manage the medication of a pupil with HIV or AIDS, this will be led by the School Nurse and managed safely and confidentially and any necessary risk assessments would be put in place.

Stigma and discrimination

6. Infected and affected children and adults face stigma, discrimination and social exclusion. The school is aware that an infected child is at risk of isolation, discrimination and bullying from his or her peer group and other members of the school and wider community. Mary Hare aims to promote equality and tackle any form of discrimination.

¹ Conway, M. (2005) *HIV in Schools; Good practice guide to supporting children infected or affected by HIV*. London: National Children's Bureau

Sex and relationships education

7. HIV is a sexually transmitted infection and sex and relationships education (SRE) should provide pupils with the knowledge and skills to protect themselves against acquiring the virus through unsafe sex.

8. Sex and relationships education forms part of the PSHE programme at Mary Hare School. This is taught primarily by form teachers, whom we believe know the pupils best and can therefore present the information sensitively and appropriately. Other aspects of sex education are delivered through the Science curriculum.

Additional information can be found at:

www.chiva.org.uk (Children's HIV Association)

www.bhiva.org (British HIV Association)
