

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES POLICY

**NAG 5
NO. 503**

Purpose

It is the responsibility of the Board to provide a healthy and safe working and learning environment, this includes protection of those carrying communicable diseases and from those carrying communicable diseases.

Guidelines

1. The Board of Trustees will ensure by virtue of their governance of St Heliers School that a child's health status should not affect their right to an education.
 - a) Children with a serious communicable disease should be able to participate in all activities in the school to the extent that their health permits.
 - b) In the event that their health deteriorates, special programmes or inter-agency support (e.g. advice from health professionals, Group Special Education) should be put in place so children can remain in the school setting.
2. In dealing with any injury, all children should be treated as if they have a blood-borne virus.
3. The Board of Trustees recognizes that children have a right to privacy.
 - (a) All parents or caregivers must notify the school if their child carries HIV/AIDS, hepatitis or similar illnesses. This information must be provided to the Principal at the time of enrolment or at any other time immediately following diagnosis. The purpose of this disclosure is to allow the school to work with the parents and child to ensure adequate support as well as protection for the child.
 - (b) The disclosure of information by the School on infected children will be on a "need to know" basis.
4. The Board of Trustees recognizes that health education programmes are more likely to succeed if there is a partnership with parents and the local community. If the need arises the Board of Trustees should invite health professionals to work with the school community and provide opportunities for open discussion (e.g. a parent meeting).
5. The Principal and Teaching Staff will be committed to disease prevention and will ensure adequate measures are taken to reduce the chance of virus transmission in the school setting. Student education, including discussion and answering questions, should be covered in an appropriate manner within the school health education programme.
6. The Board of Trustees should provide opportunities for staff to participate in professional development in health and safety areas.