

## 5.4. INFECTIOUS DISEASES – RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY

### Principles

1. The school will respect the opinion of medical professionals concerning health advice with regard to participation in school activities.
2. Children have a right to privacy. Information about the health status of children will be made available to those people defined in the school policy.
3. In dealing with any injury, all children should be treated as if they have a blood borne virus.

### Procedures

The school currently collects the following information on the health status of all children being enrolled.

- Allergies
- Medication
- Immunisation Status
- Sight
- Speech
- Hearing

Parents will be required to notify the school of the following at the time of enrolment by filling in a form attached to the standard enrolment form

- HIV / Aids status
- Any other blood borne viruses e.g. Hepatitis B or C

The purpose of collecting this information is to ensure the school has information enabling it to ensure a safe and healthy environment for the students of the school and staff in the work place and to prevent spread of infection/disease. It is also collected to enable the school to inform parents of HIV positive children, of incidents of infectious diseases such as chicken pox, measles and mumps that pose a greater risk to them.

The information is confidential to the staff and management of the school and will be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the school's privacy policy.

In the particular case of infectious blood borne viruses all staff are likely to come in contact with the child e.g. through lunch time duty or other similar situations and will be informed of the child's status.

The Board will provide opportunities for staff to participate in professional development in health and safety areas and, in particular, will ensure they are conversant with “Guidelines for Infection Control of HIV Aids and Other Blood-Borne Viruses in Schools” (attached to this policy).

Teaching and Learning programmes for students will be based on the Health and P.E. Curriculum and should develop the knowledge, understandings, skills and attitudes necessary for students to deal confidently with matters surrounding HIV/Aids and other blood borne viruses

### **First Aid Procedures**

- We will ensure all staff are fully conversant with the school’s first aid procedures, in school and out of school e.g. camps, class trips, sports exchanges.
- School cleaning staff are trained in the correct procedures for disposal of contaminated wastes.
- A staff member will be delegated responsibility for monitoring the effectiveness of first aid procedures.
- Children will be trained in correct procedures in case of a pupil or staff member being injured i.e. to notify the duty teacher or report immediately to the office.
- Administration staff have been trained in first aid procedures. Injuries are referred to them for treatment.

Board of Trustees Chairperson \_\_\_\_\_  
August 2008.