

Chapter 1. Introduction

These guidelines were designed to assist schools to prevent or minimise the spread of infection, illness and disease to staff, pupils and others (such as student teachers and volunteers). They were primarily developed for use by teachers in primary and secondary schools.

They aim to raise awareness about common and important infectious diseases and provide guidance on the prevention and management of infectious diseases in educational settings.

The guidelines are based on best available evidence and consensus recommendations.

Additional advice and support about specific infectious diseases can be obtained from Local Departments of Public Health

The document provides advice on the prevention and control of the most common and important infections encountered in schools.

Key points

Schools are common sites for transmission of infectious diseases.

The prevention of transmission of infectious diseases in schools is most likely to be successful if the following are implemented:

1. Effective hand washing is used at every opportunity.
2. All pupils and staff are appropriately immunised.
3. Any unwell staff member or pupil is excluded from school.