

Case study – infection control

Repeated cases of sickness and diarrhoea were occurring in both staff and pupils in two adjacent nursery classes. Although no pupils or staff were seriously ill, the situation was of concern and creating some disquiet with staff and families. It was therefore decided appropriate to send some samples for analysis. This was organised through the school nurse in liaison with environmental health who proved very helpful and supportive throughout. A notifiable bacteria was isolated in one family and the following actions taken:

- The family were referred to their GP for treatment and repeat tests organised before they returned to school.
- Infection Control Nurse worked with School Nurse to audit all hygiene arrangements in the nursery area.
- A deep clean of the whole area was arranged.
- Further training was given to all staff on the use of new gloves and aprons for all changing.
- The importance of frequent handwashing was emphasised.
- Staff and families were reminded that they should not return to school after any sickness or diarrhoea until they had been well for 48 hrs.
- The swimming pool was closed and the water tested before users were allowed back in the water.
- The infection control policy was revisited with all staff.