



St James CE Primary School

Intimate Care Policy

Rationale

Most children achieve continence before starting full-time school. With the development of more early years' education and the drive towards inclusion, however, there are more children in mainstream education establishments who are not fully independent. Some individuals remain dependent on long-term support for personal care, whilst others progress slowly towards dependence.

The achievement of continence can be seen as the most important single self-help skill, improving the quality of life, independence and self-esteem. The stigma associated with wetting and soiling accidents can cause enormous stress and embarrassment to the children and families concerned. Difficulties with continence severely inhibit an individual's inclusion in school and the community. Children with toileting problems who receive support and understanding from those who act in loco parentis are more likely to achieve their full potential.

Children with continence problems are a very diverse group. However, broadly speaking, children with continence problems can be divided into the following groups:

1. Late developers – the children may be developing normally but at a slower rate
2. Children with some development delay – Many more of these children are now in early years and mainstream settings
3. Children with physical disabilities – e.g. children with cerebral palsy, spina bifida. Long term continence development/ management plans are likely to be needed.

Purposes

- To preserve children's welfare and dignity at all times
- To provide a high level of privacy, choice and control to pupils.
- To ensure staff are fully aware of safeguarding implications
- To ensure staff undertake their duties in a professional manner at all times

Principles

- Every effort should be made to encourage independence before a child arrives in school
- School should plan for the development of independence skills, particularly for children who are highly dependent upon adult support for personal care
- As far as practicable settings should aim to ensure that staff are able to handle children's care needs safely and with dignity
- Each child's case should be considered individually
- School should aim to develop their ability to cope with the needs of children who are incontinent in line with the Equality Act 2010. Anyone with a named condition that affects aspects of personal development must not be discriminated against.
- School should establish effective relationships with parents/carers. Parents/carers should be encouraged to work with professionals to ensure their child/ young person's needs are properly identified, understood and met. They should be closely involved in the preparation of Individual care plans. Staff have a duty to remove barriers to learning.

Procedures

- Written permission to give intimate care must be obtained from parents/carers using Appendix 1. Children's social care must be informed for children who are on the child protection register
- Staff will use appropriate protective equipment e.g. gloves, aprons
- Parents will supply the necessary change of clothes
- Children should be changed by one adult to protect the child's dignity and encourage them to become independent. However, another member of staff needs to be present or in clear view. Another adult must be informed at all times before a child is helped to change
- The occasion must be recorded using the pro-forma in Appendix 2 and the parent must be informed
- Any child protection concerns should be followed in accordance with the school safeguarding policy
- Soiled clothes must be rinsed through in the washing machine and returned in a plastic bag to the parent/carer at the end of the day

REMEMBER:

- Wash hands prior to giving support
- Wear gloves/ apron if necessary
- Use baby wipes if necessary
- Dispose of non-flushable items via medical waste bin
- Wash hands after giving support
- Wash soiled items if necessary

Appendix 1

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Parental Permission for Intimate Care

I give permission forto receive intimate care for example helping with changing or following toileting should the need arise.

I understand the staff are doing this on a voluntary basis and will endeavor to encourage my child to achieve independence in this area with dignity and respect.

I will provide the necessary change of clothes or other requirements.

I understand I will be informed discretely on each occasion this happens.

Signed:

Person with legal responsibility for

Date:

