

Whitwick St. John the Baptist C.E. Primary School

Toileting & Intimate Care Policy

Agreed by Staff: **September 2024**

Agreed by Governors: **September 2024**

Signed (Chair): _____ Date: _____

School Statement

Our expectation is that young children should have achieved continence when they are admitted to school. We recognise that young children vary widely in their levels of maturity and in achieving continence. We also recognise that children may have a lapse in their continence because of trauma, onset of sudden disability, emotional upset or health problems.

We will do our best to support children in partnership, but the school does need the support of parents if children need a change of clothing or they have become distressed. In some circumstances we may need, and will reserve the right, to contact and request that the child should be collected from school.

What the school expects of parents:

- Parents will endeavour to ensure that their child is continent before admission to school (unless the child has additional needs).
- Parents will discuss any specific concerns with staff about their child's toileting needs.
- Parents accept that on occasions their child may need to be collected from school.

What parents expect of our school:

- Staff will deal sensitively with all children's toileting needs.
- Staff will encourage children to become independent and confident in coping with their own toileting needs.
- Staff will contact parents if their child becomes distressed or is unwell in order that he/she can be collected from school.

Special Educational Needs and Child Protection Issues

If a child's toileting needs are substantially different from those expected of a child his/her age, then the child may be considered to be placed on the SEN record as SEN support according to the SEN Code of Practice 2014. If a child has complex needs in addition to toileting needs, they may have an SEN Support & Disability Plan. A toileting programme would be agreed with parents, with advice by a Health Professional where appropriate, and an Intimate Health Care Plan would be created, shared and agreed with relevant staff, the child and parents.

If there is no progress over a long period of time e.g. half a term, the SENCO, teaching staff and parents would seek further support, e.g. GP's referral of a child for specialist assessment.

LA guidance states that "In only the most exceptional circumstances, where a child's toileting problems is related to other significant difficulties, will a child be subject to statutory assessment for an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP).

Reducing the Risk to School Staff in terms of Misinterpretation and False Allegations of Abuse

- Staff who agree to assist pupils in school with toileting needs generally do so on an entirely voluntary basis. There is no obligation on staff to volunteer to do this.
- Staff should always be accompanied by another member of staff when helping a child with toileting difficulties. All incidents will be logged.
- The school provides appropriate changing facilities.
- Children should be dealt with in a caring and sensitive manner.
- Wherever possible children should be encouraged to change themselves with staff providing the minimum level of assistance and intervention, compatible with the child's needs.
- During the delivery of intimate care, should the member of staff have cause for concern regarding possible child abuse, the recognised child protection procedures should be followed.
- Staff are reminded that they should not carry mobile phones when undertaking toileting / intimate procedures.

Infection Control

- Effective hand washing by staff and pupils is promoted by the school.
- Latex gloves and plastic aprons should be worn by any member of staff when in contact with bodily fluids.
- Any soiled clothing should be double bagged and returned to parents/carers for laundering.