

Central Primary School



Showering and Intimate Care Policy

Our motto: Children are Central

Introduction

Under the Disability discrimination and Equal Opportunities Act, children have a right not to be discriminated against even if they are not nappy trained or have a medical condition which leads to wetting or soiling. Schools have a duty to provide an area for nappy changing and cleaning of children.

Aims

- Clarify the school's approach to showering children, for staff, pupils, governors, parents or carers, and to clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities;
- Give guidance on when, and how, to shower children;
- Ensure that safety procedures are followed and therefore give legal protection for staff involved in the showering of children.

Responsibilities

The headteacher will:

- Ensure that staff and parents are informed about this Shower policy;
- Ensure that the policy is implemented effectively;
- Ensure that staff are given sufficient training;
- Liaise with external agencies regarding the school shower policy;
- Monitor the policy on a day-to-day basis, and report to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

The governing body will:

- Designate a governor with specific responsibility for Health and safety;
- Establish general guidelines;
- Support the Head Teacher in following these guidelines;
- Inform and consult with parents about the policy;
- Liaise with the Local Authority and health organisations, so that the school's policy is in line with the best advice available;

Use of the Shower

When?

- If children are soiled;
- In exceptional circumstances staff may use their professional judgement e.g. if there is a known medical condition or the child is persistently smelling.

How?

- Parents must sign to give permission;
- If permission is not given then children cannot be showered. In this instance the parents or carers must be contacted and the child sent home;
- Once a child has been showered the following details must be logged in the log book: date, name, reasons for showing, and names of adults doing the showering.

Guidance for adults

- Two adults must be in the shower room;
- Instructions must be given to the child so that they can wash themselves. Adults are not to touch the child;
- Child to use sponge/flannel and shower gel/soap which is PH neutral (please check for allergies before use);
- Child must dry themselves;
- Child to change into clean clothes;
- Where a child is physically disabled and unable to wash or dry themselves, assistance can be given by the adults as long as permission is given by the parents or carers and this is logged in the book;
- Soiled clothing must be put into plastic bags and sealed before giving them back to the Parents or Carers;
- Parents or Carers must be informed on the same day if their child has been showered;
- If a child refuses to be showered or shows distress during showering then do not proceed. Contact the Parents or Carers and arrange for the child to be picked up.

Child Protection

If a child is continually showing signs of neglect due to cleanliness then this must be noted and reported to the designated senior person in the school.

If unusual marks or bruising is noticed then the child protection policy must be followed (please refer to CP policy)

Health Education

We recognise that learning is most effective when it addresses the development of knowledge, attitudes and skills together and when teaching and learning are participative and active. We use a variety of teaching styles that are characterised by active learning. We find out what the children know already, we pose dilemmas, and we get the children to discuss choices. Wherever possible the information we give is visually reinforced. We use drama, role-play or ICT to demonstrate various strategies and scenarios. In short, we seek to engage our pupils. We give them the opportunity to talk to groups or to the whole class. We encourage them to listen to the views of others, and we ask them to explore why we need to keep clean and healthy.

We aim to teach all pupils about keeping clean, however different their attainment levels, and however diverse their requirements. We recognise that pupils with special educational needs may be more vulnerable.

Health education takes place during normal lesson time. Sometimes a class teacher will seek support from the school nurse or another health professional.

Medication for incontinence

Where children have medical needs, parents must give us details of the child's condition and medication. Parents will bring the medication to school in a secure, labelled container. Records will be kept of all medication received and given.

Please see the First Aid and Medical Needs Policy for further information.

The role of parents

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's health education lies with parents. The use of the school shower is not intended to replace the parent's role in regular washing and caring for their own child.

We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of our pupils, through mutual understanding, trust and cooperation. To promote this objective, we will:

- Inform parents about the school shower policy;
- Invite parents to view the materials used to teach health education in our school;
- Answer any questions parents may have about the education their child receives in school;
- Take seriously any issue which parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy, or about arrangements for drugs education in the school;
- Encourage parents to be involved in reviewing the school policy, and making modifications to it as necessary;
- Inform parents about the best practice known with regard to cleanliness and health education, so that the parents can support the key messages being given to children at school.

Equality

In accordance with the Equality Act 2010 we seek to;

- a) **eliminate discrimination**, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the act
- b) **advance equality of opportunity** between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it
- c) **foster good relations** between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it

Our Showing and Intimate Care Policy promotes inclusion by allowing all pupils to attend school regardless of their continence level.

Monitoring and review

The governing body will monitor the Shower policy on a regular basis. If the policy appears to need modification, then the Governing Body will consult widely before making these changes.

This policy will be reviewed annually as a safeguarding policy.

