



ST HELENS PRIMARY SCHOOL

INTIMATE CARE POLICY

November 2019November 2019

Introduction

Most children achieve continence before starting full-time school. However there are some pupils in mainstream education who are not fully independent. Some individuals remain dependent on long-term support for personal care, while others progress slowly towards independence.

The achievement of continence is an important self-help skill improving the person's quality of life, independence and self-esteem.

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

1. Late developers – the child may be developing normally but at a slower pace.
2. Children with some developmental delay
3. Children with physical disabilities e.g. cerebral palsy, spina bifida, for whom long term continence development/management plans are likely to be needed.
- 4.
5. Children with behavioural difficulties – delayed toilet training may be part of more general emotional/behavioural difficulties.

Principles

1. Some children achieve independence more easily than others. Children should not be excluded from everyday educational activities solely because of a manageable condition.
2. Staff at St Helens Primary should plan for the development of independence skills, especially for children who are highly dependent upon adult support for personal care.
3. Children should be treated with dignity and respect by carers who are aware of the importance of helping them develop as far as possible towards independence in personal care.
4. Before admitting a child who has a continence problem, educational settings should draw up a continence care plan agreed by the setting, parents/carers and Health Care professionals. The child should also be consulted, if appropriate as well as the staff involved in carrying out the care. The plan should include information about when and where the child will be cared for, and the practices to be used if necessary. It must specify the people who will be carrying out the care duties. Parents should be informed if there is a change of staff. The continence plan will be signed by all involved in drawing it up, and must include parental consent and a review date.
5. There must be more than one member of staff to present when providing intimate care for a child to safeguard both child and carer.
6. Staff carrying out care responsibilities are required to follow basic hygiene precautions when dealing with pupils with bladder and bowel problems.
7. The school will ensure that staff have appropriate information and training, including a regular review of procedure and practice.
8. Systems of care should be implemented that
 - Preserve the dignity and independence of the child or young person.
 - Carry out the continence treatment or management plan as agreed in the assessment.
 - Provide adequately trained school- based care staff.

Safeguarding

In order to safeguard children and maintain their dignity whilst acknowledging professionals' fear about allegations of abuse it's imperative that each individual:

- Informs a colleague when a child needs to be taken to the toilet to avoid them carrying out intimate care alone.
- Makes a record of each occasion, including time and duration.
- All staff are aware that children with disabilities/SEN present additional challenges due to their vulnerability including and assumptions are that indicators of possible abuse relate to the child's disabilities. There is potential

for these children to be suffering abuse without showing outward signs and there maybe communication barriers and difficulties.

Practice

Written permission to give intimate care must be obtained from the parent/carer using Appendix 1. Children’s Social Care must be informed for children who are subject to a Child Protection Plan.

Staff will use appropriate protective equipment e.g gloves.

Parents will supply the necessary change of clothing.

The occasion must be recorded and the parent must be informed.

Any child protection concerns should follow the normal routes (See Safeguarding Policy).

MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE POLICY

This policy will be reviewed in June 2024.

Signed _____ Chair of Governors

Date _____

This policy has been amended in response to Keeping Children Safe in Education - September 2016 (added in March 2017)



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APPENDIX 1

My child may need personal care in order to assist with toileting at school. I understand that I will always be informed of who carries out this care, and the number of times it is necessary. The care will be given in line with the school's Safeguarding procedures, and the child's dignity and self-esteem will be preserved at all times.

Signed _____

Parent of _____

Date _____