



Fairfield Community Primary School

Continence and Toileting Needs Policy

The Disability Discrimination Act 2005 (henceforth known as DDA) requires all education providers to produce guidance relating to procedures if a child soils or wets him / herself or a child has specific toileting needs. As a school, we will not refuse admission on the basis of a child having a continence problem as this contradicts Admission Procedures and our Equal Opportunities Policy.

We will however adopt a supportive and sensitive relationship with the parent or carer of the child to ensure that the issue is minimised and effectively managed. The following procedure is one which Fairfield Community Primary School will adopt if we have a child in the school who has wet or soiled him / herself *more than once in an academic year (assuming that the causes are not diarrhoea or a stomach upset)* or connected with natural child development (ie. The requirement for the child to wear a nappy). We also adopt the following procedures if there is concern over possible wetting / soiling that is raised by the parent / carer of the child.

- **STEP ONE**

The class teacher and/or Head Teacher and/or SENCo, in the case of a developmental need or a disability, will contact the parent/carer to discuss the issue and will request the School Nurse to be in attendance. Consequently, the school and medical agencies will build a supportive and sensitive relationship with the parent / carer.

- **STEP TWO**

The parent/carer will be asked to bring in spare clothes and underwear for the child in the event of him / her soiling or wetting themselves. It may also be necessary for the parent / carer to be asked to bring in wipes for the child. The parent can therefore ensure that the wipes used do not cause the child to have an allergic reaction. We may also ask the parent/carer to bring in nappy bags for disposal of underwear if the parent/carer wishes.

- **STEP THREE**

The Head Teacher or Class Teacher/SENCo will ask the parent/carer to sign a declaration agreeing that in the event of a soiling or wetting incident, they will be contacted by the school. The declaration will also state that should a child need regular changing because of developmental continence needs (i.e. wearing a nappy), the school will attend to these needs but make it explicitly clear what the procedure will be. This therefore provides the parent/carer with the opportunity to come to school to change their

child which may indeed result in a less traumatic situation for the child should they wish to.

The parent should also state that should the child need further medical attention or medication, he/she will contact the school so to maintain complete and effective communication.

The declaration will also state that the parent / carer gives permission for **one member of staff** (employed by Fairfield Community Primary School) to be present in the shower room if the child needs to shower him/herself following a soiling incident (passing a hard stool or a small wetting incident may not require showering and simple use of wipes to cleanse area and a change of clothes may suffice) or if the child will regularly need their nappy changed. In exceptional circumstances, two members of staff will be present. With regard to showering, this is obviously dependent on the age and ability of the child. Members of staff involved in the intimate care of children will naturally have received complete clearance from the DBS and will have been fully instructed on what to do in the event of a child soiling him / herself. We will have non-fragrant sensitive soap for the child to use if necessary.

If the parent does not wish the child to be showered if necessary and either refuses to collect their child or cannot be contacted, we reserve the right to act in the interests of the child as we would refuse to neglect any child in our care.

THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES WILL BE ADHERED TO IN THE EVENT OF ANY CHILD SOILING HIM / HERSELF;

1. We expect the child to tell an adult if he/she has soiled or wet themselves. If we suspect soiling, we will sensitively ask the child if he/she has had an accident.
2. The parent/carers will be phoned thus providing him/her with the opportunity to come to school to change their child.
3. In the event of the parent/carers not coming into school, the child must use the shower situated in the Reception Unit to clean him/herself *if the severity of the soiling incident requires showering – a hard stool may simply necessitate using wipes and clean clothing*. Dependent on the age and ability of the child, it may be necessary for an adult employed by Fairfield Community Primary School to be present in the shower room with the child and indeed use the shower head and flannel / sponge to clean the child (**please see section 3 bullet point 3 on page 8 of the LA document ‘Management of Children’s Toileting Needs’**). In exceptional circumstances, two adults may be present in the shower room with the child.
4. In line with the Leicestershire and Rutland advice, PPE is required for children whose care routinely already involves the use of PPE, including disposable, protective gloves and plastic aprons. However, we would recommend using additional PPE in these circumstances, such as a fluid resistant mask, due to the close proximity required when addressing intimate/personal care needs to ensure the children continue to receive their care in the same way.
5. If the child does not have spare clothes in school, we will provide spare clothing. The child’s soiled clothing will be placed in a plastic bag by the child (again if age and ability allows) and sealed so as to be handed to the parent / carer.

NB. Parents / carers will be told if a child wets him / herself but this may be at the end of the school day as a simple change of clothes may suffice.

Fairfield Community assures the parents/carers that no child will be knowingly left as having soiled or wet themselves for any length of time and also assures parents/carers that all situations will be dealt with in an effective and sensitive way.

The partnership between home and school is of paramount importance in situations such as these and complete cooperation and communication is essential.

APPENDIX A is the form which we will include in our induction pack for parents and for use in the event of a child joining the school with a continence problem.

Appendix A CONFIDENTIAL CONTINENCE INFORMATION

If your child has developmental needs and / or disabilities which require them to wear a nappy at school, please see * below.

CHILD'S NAME _____

PARENT / CARER'S NAME _____

As a school, Fairfield Community understands that continence development is not always achieved by all children by the time they start school and that this can be attributed to a number of reasons. We also appreciate that certain factors can affect a child's continence during childhood. We therefore ask that as a parent/carer, you read the following guidelines and procedures and sign and return this to Fairfield Community Primary School. The aim of this form is to reassure you that we deal with continence issues in a sensitive and supportive way and form strong relationships with parents / carers to achieve these aims.

In a circumstance of my child soiling or wetting him / herself, I would expect my child to inform an adult at Fairfield Community (dependent on age and abilities of the child).

In the event of the above named child soiling or wetting him / herself, I understand that the school will initially contact me or another parent / carer with legal responsibility for the child. In this instance, there is the opportunity for me to come into school to change the child or remove the child to be changed at home. This outcome is most ideal as it minimises the sensitivity of the situation for the child.

In the event of myself or other parent / carer with legal responsibility for the child not being able to come to school, I give permission for my child to be showered *if necessary* with **one** employee of Fairfield Community Primary School present in the shower room (if this is appropriate considering the child's age and capability); in exceptional circumstances, there will be two adults present in the changing room. I also understand that it may be appropriate for the employees to shower the child themselves to ensure he or she is suitably clean. This would involve using a sponge / flannel or other suitable cleansing material to clean the child if they were unable to do so themselves.

Where possible, the child should be encouraged to wash his / her own private parts. Emphasis will be placed on minimal level of staff assistance in situations such as these – assistance as outlined above (if necessary) will be provided to ensure my child is clean. I also understand that, naturally, any adults involved in the intimate/personal care of my child will have been cleared by the DBS and are fit to work in education (as is statutory for all employees of Fairfield Community Primary School). Any adult involved in the intimate/personal care of my child will also have read guidance and procedures when dealing with a child who has soiled themselves.

If the soiling / wetting occurrence is frequent, I will also ensure that labelled spare clothing, bags and wipes (if appropriate) are provided to the school by myself or another parent / carer with legal responsibility for the child. The school will have fragrance-free sensitive soap for my child to use but again, I may choose to include soap to use with the wipes.

***Should my child have developmental needs or disabilities which mean that they will need to wear a nappy, the school will not contact me regarding changing of a nappy as this will be a frequent occurrence each day. Procedures for attending to this will be discussed and arranged with the parent and one member of staff will be present when changing a nappy. In exceptional circumstances, two members of staff will be present. As far as possible, the person involved in changing will routinely be the same member of staff and be well-known to the child.**

The specific issues relating to my child are as follows:

I will also contact the school should there be any changes in medication or treatment (if applicable). Fairfield Community Primary School assures you that any incidents will be dealt with sensitively and effectively. This will ensure that any trauma for the child is minimised.

Signed _____ Date _____

Parent / carer with legal responsibility for the child