

Continence Policy

1. Purpose

- 1.1. This policy sets out the framework for ensuring that wetting and soiling incidents are minimised, but when they do occur they are dealt with in an appropriate manner.

2. Application

- 2.1. This policy applies to ALL students in the school.

3. Parent/Carer and student Responsibilities

3.1 If your child experiences incidents of wetting or soiling please inform your child's Care or College Leader. Incidents that increase in frequency and can not be met via the Care Leaders and School Nurse will mean that information is passed onto the SENCo/Assistant Senco.

Parents/carers will be contacted and a medical care plan will be drawn up by the school nurse. It is likely at this stage that your child will be placed on the Additional Needs Register and if the school cannot meet the needs of your child, an Educational Health and Care Plan will be applied for after a cycle of assessment and reviewing.

3.2 Parents / Carers role

- Providing changes of clothes and plastic bags in which to put soiled clothing
- Informing school if there is a change routine which may affect their continence e.g. an increase in laxatives
- Understanding and agreeing the procedures to be followed during changing at school
- Agreeing to encourage the child's participation in toileting procedures wherever possible to promote independence
- Continuing toileting routines at home to optimise the potential of achieving full continence, where possible
- Agreeing to review the arrangements, in discussion with the school, should this be necessary.

3.3 Any student who wets or soils themselves will need to discreetly make the teacher aware of their need to leave the classroom to go to the Care Leaders. Hand sanitizer is available in ALL the toilets and it is the students responsibility to wash their hands. They will then be able to use the facilities of the disabled toilet which has a shower in it. They will be asked to wear their PE kit or a loaned change of clothes. They will be issued a plastic bag to place their wet or soiled clothes in and need make sure this is adequately tied as it will have to go into their school bag.

3.4 If your child experiences regular incidents of wetting or soiling the Pastoral Team will issue a Medical card which will give your child permission to leave the class without divulging reasons why. The medical care plan will outline the needs and provision for your child but if any long term provision is put in place, a provision map may be drawn up that details the support given.

This support will be discussed with parents/carers and the child. Parents/carers will need to provide spare clothes where regular wetting/soiling occurs.

4. School Responsibilities

4.1 **It is not part of a teacher's professional duties to clean up children.** Such a responsibility cannot, therefore, be added to a teacher's job description. Quite apart from the fact that such a task is not making good use of a teacher's skills and time, there are practical issues too. Teachers cannot simply abandon their class to attend to a child who needs this kind of assistance. **It is also not part of the Teaching Assistant's or the Pastoral Teams duties to clean up a student.** Although the vast majority of teachers, Teaching Assistants and the Pastoral Team would assist in an emergency situation, as no child should be left in wet or soiled clothing, it is important that there is no expectation that routine and predictable incidents are dealt with by these professionals. The Care Leaders will inform the Site Team after the incident to request that the changing area is cleaned after use according to local policy and guidelines and to replenish the liquid soap and paper towels for drying hands.

5. How can School Help?

5.1 Notwithstanding the fact that some children will have underlying problems that need to be addressed with the support of medical professionals, there are steps which schools can take to reduce the likelihood of children wetting and soiling themselves.

For children to stay healthy they need to drink water regularly throughout the day. They also need to empty their bladder and bowels regularly and fully when the need arises.

For all of our students we have set break and lunch times for access to the toilet. It is of course recognised that allowing children access to toilets at all times can be disruptive and students are encouraged to use the toilet facilities at these set times and not in lesson time, however, if there is a need to go in class, a student can ask their teacher permission to go. Any student who has a regular need for the toilet throughout the school day will be issued a Medical Card which will allow them to leave a lesson if they need the toilet. The parent or the child will need to speak to their College, Care Leader or child's mentor to bring this to our attention.

6. Support for Families

6.1 Further information on soiling and wetting with support for families can be found at:

ERIC (Education and Resources for Improving Childhood Continence) A registered charity which offers information and support to children, young people and their families and professionals on

childhood continence problems including bedwetting, daytime wetting, soiling and constipation and toilet training. www.eric.org.uk

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