

Birchgrove Primary School



Where every child is a star!

Toileting Policy

Chair of Governors Mrs Christine Salter
Headteacher Mrs S Morgan

Children's Commissioner for Wales, Keith Towler said:

"Regrettably, children and young people continue to talk to me about the toilet facilities in school – they have a right to health, dignity and respect. This is not a trivial issue and the least we should expect from a society which values our children and young people is that we afford them the same standards as we expect as adults."

"I want all duty bearers, including schools, school governing bodies, local authorities and Welsh Government to monitor progress and ensure that we see improvements through this guidance. It's also important that children and young people's views are continually sought as we seek to achieve positive change on this important issue."

The Governors of Birchgrove Primary School have adapted this policy from Welsh Government guidance for schools and local authorities on how to provide and maintain good quality, hygienic toilet facilities for learners, adults and visitors to the school. As stated in the guidance document 'Our aim is to make school toilets accessible, clean and safe by encouraging the adoption of the highest possible standards. We have a duty to educate learners about how to best look after their own health and to respect the facilities provided to them.'

Advice on developing an effective school toilet policy was provided by the 'BOG Standard: Better toilets for pupils campaign'. The campaign was launched in the UK in April 2003 and is a campaign to promote better toilets for pupils. Bog Standard is the campaigning arm of the national charity Education and Resources for Improving Childhood continence (ERIC). The campaign is a joint venture between ERIC, Community Practitioners' and Health Visitors' Association, School Councils UK and the British Toilet Association. Information and resources used in formulating this policy are available on the BOG Standard website (www.bog-standard.org).

The 3 aims of Bog Standard are:

1. To increase awareness of the health benefits of better toilets for pupils
2. To encourage schools to improve the condition of pupils' toilets and to allow pupils to use them when they need to
3. To get laws that will make pupils' toilets nicer to use.

School toilets affect children's physical and psychological health. Toilets which are unpleasant or out of bounds can cause serious, long-term health problems. These factors have been taken into consideration in our school toilet policy. The policy is freely available to the entire school community. It

has been approved by the school governors and made available on the school website. This policy document was produced in consultation with pupils, school staff and governors. The school actively supports the provision of open access to well-maintained, clean, private and safe toilet facilities throughout the school day.

Aims

- To maximise access to learners' toilet facilities during the day to promote the health, well-being and learning opportunities of all learners.
- To provide good quality toilet facilities throughout the school.

Rationale: Why are we writing this policy?

- The school recognises that well-maintained toilet facilities where learners feel comfortable and safe and have open access to throughout the school day, are essential for health, well-being, and learning.
- We value and respect our learners and want them to be able to benefit from good provision and practice.

Objectives: What do we want to achieve?

- To ensure that this policy is both accepted and upheld by the whole-school community – school management, staff, pupils, governors, parents/carers, caretaker, cleaning and ancillary staff.
- To keep all toilets open and available to learners throughout the school day. While learners can use toilet facilities at break and lunchtimes if they need to, we ensure learners have access at all times. We recognise that toilet needs are highly individual and do not conform to regimental timetables. We recognise that some learners only feel comfortable going to the toilet when others are not around and will allow them to quietly leave the class to use the toilet without adverse comment.
- To ensure that the toilet and washroom facilities are suitable for the range of anticipated users, including learners with disabilities and special needs, with adequate lighting, fixtures and fittings.
- To ensure the toilet and washroom facilities cater for the needs of all learners from ethnic and religious communities, and ensure these needs are met in a sensitive, informed and appropriate manner.
- To ensure that the toilet facilities provide visual and aural privacy for users, ensuring a spare supply of cubicle door locks.
- To ensure that all toilet areas have properly maintained supplies at all times of warm and cold water, liquid soap, hand drying facilities and toilet tissue in dispensers, provided at a convenient height.
- To ensure sanitary disposal units are discretely provided in female cubicles (for girls aged eight and over) and are serviced on a regular basis.

- To implement and maintain an effective toilet cleaning, supervision and inspection regime to ensure proper standards of provision and cleanliness, throughout the school day.
- To locate drinking water supplies and outlets in safe and appropriate locations, and not in toilet areas.
- To supervise the toilets at break and lunchtimes, if learners perceive the need. If learners assume this role, we will train and supervise them to ensure they carry out their duties correctly and do not restrict fellow learners from using the toilets as and when they need to.
- To actively seek the views of the whole-school community in relation to any concerns about toilet provision and access issues (ensuring a child-friendly procedure for pupils to report deficiencies or problems, for example, via the school council) and to respond seriously to these and deal promptly with any problems highlighted by the learners.
- To actively consult and involve the learners in managing the toilets (via the school council or establish a working group).
- To encourage learners to respect the toilets and each other (via the school council, in PSE lessons, in class teacher discussion times) and for learners to establish a Learner Code of Conduct in toilets and washrooms.
- To regularly include toilet management issues in all appropriate school council, staff, parent/carer and governor meetings.
- To provide indoor social areas to discourage toilets from being used for such purposes.
- To implement and maintain annual reviews of the policy to monitor that it is being adhered to and remains relevant.

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