

Saint Norbert's Catholic Primary Voluntary Academy
Continence information



Promoting Personal Development - Continence

Achieving continence is one of the many developmental milestones usually reached before a child transfers to nursery. However, we acknowledge that there may be children with longer term continence issues for whom an individual health care plan may need to be put in place. In addition, there may be children joining us in school who are at various points of developing their independence in toileting.

No child will be refused a place in school in relation to continence issues.

St. Norbert's Catholic Primary Voluntary Academy is committed wholeheartedly to working with children, parents and any support agencies deemed necessary to ensure appropriate provision is made for all children with needs in this specific area of personal development and, in so doing, fulfil a commitment to the promotion of our inclusive school ethos.

We accept our responsibility to meet the needs of children with delayed personal development in the same way we aim to meet the needs of children with delayed language or any other kind of delayed development. We aim to make reasonable adjustments to meet the needs of each child.

Keys to success

A successful transition to independence in this area of self-care is more likely to be achieved when we, as practitioners, work closely with parents with a positive approach to supporting the child.

We will not assume that the child has failed to achieve full continence because this has not been attempted in the home. However, where this is the case, we will have a positive and structured approach developed in partnership with parents and carers, to ensure a successful outcome for a child.

If there is further concern that delayed continence may be linked with delays in other aspects of the child's development, this will be discussed sensitively with parents and carers and a specific programme be developed jointly and agreed.

There are other professionals who can help with advice and support. The Family Health Visitor or appropriate nurse will have knowledge of who can be contacted to offer support and advice in this area. Health care professionals can also carry out a full health assessment in order to rule out any medical cause of continence problems.

Partnership Working

In order to achieve a clear understanding of the shared responsibilities of both parents and school it may be appropriate to set up a mutual agreement which will define each other's expectations. This kind of agreement should help to avoid misunderstandings that might otherwise arise and help parents feel confident that the school is taking a holistic view of the child's needs.

If such an arrangement is deemed necessary, any issues discussed and agreed upon may cover the following areas:

The parent:

- Agreeing to ensure that the child is changed at the latest possible time before being brought to school
- Providing the school/setting with spare nappies/underwear, a change of clothing and any prescribed creams
- Understanding and agreeing the procedures that will be followed when their child is changed at school – including the use of any cleanser or the application of any prescribed cream
- Agreeing to inform the school should the child have any marks/rash
- Agreeing to a 'minimum change' policy i.e. the school would not undertake to change the child more frequently than if s/he were at home
- Agreeing to review arrangements should this be necessary

The School/setting:

- Agreeing to change the child during a single session should the child soil themselves or become uncomfortably wet
- Agreeing how often the child would be changed should the child be staying for the full day
- Agreeing to monitor the number of times the child is changed in order to identify progress made
- Agreeing to discuss any marks or rashes seen
- Agreeing to review arrangements

Upon admission to the school you were asked to complete a permission slip giving consent to your child being changed in school in accordance with the Continence Policy. If you would like to find out more information about the procedures within our school, please ask at the office for a copy of our Continence Policy. If you have concerns about your child's development, please do not hesitate to speak to someone in school.

Useful Websites:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/pregnancy-and-baby/potty-training-tips/>

<https://www.eric.org.uk/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/sit-your-botty-on-the-potty>