



Dunholme St Chad's Church of England Primary School

Dressing and Changing Policy

2021 2022

Policy Information			
Status:	Statutory	Reviewed by:	
Cycle Review:	Annually	Policy approved:	
Approved by:		Signature:	

Policy and Practice

This curriculum policy reflects our agreed principles and practice to ensure all learners have equal access to a broad, balanced and creative curriculum. It is set in the context of our school vision. It should be read in conjunction with the school's Safeguarding Policy, Intimate Care Policy, Staff Code of Conduct, Keeping Children Safe in Education and the PE Policy.

Our vision

'Creating a community with open hearts and open minds.'

As an inclusive and welcoming church school, we work towards creating a community with open hearts and open minds. We strive to ensure that all members of our school community understand themselves to be valued for who they are. Our inspiring and ambitious learning environment enables pupils and adults to aspire to fulfil their hopes for the future. Through challenge and support, we help each other overcome barriers so that everyone can feel confident in pursuing excellence in all they do.

We aim to provide a broad, balance and creative curriculum which will support each one of us to become successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens.

Rationale

At Dunholme St Chad's Primary School we have a responsibility for the care, welfare and safety of all our pupils. The school's ethos provides the basis for this policy. The Promotion of our agreed values and beliefs ensures a pupil centred approach.

Teachers, non-teaching staff and other adults are all part of a team. This team ensures pupils are happy and secure when involved in changing their clothes. In school children change for a variety of activities including school performances and productions, outdoor learning, residential visits , swimming and sporting events.

- Being in a state of undress can cause some children to feel vulnerable, particularly those who have experienced abuse, or children that are going through puberty and bodily changes.
- Changing for curriculum or extra-curricular activities can cause anxiety for some children and this could influence their perception of the subject and determine whether it is an enjoyable and positive experience. The concern caused changing can influence a child's participation and lead to a variety of avoidance strategies.
- For staff there can be worry about supervision and how it accords with safer working practice.

Guidance

- All pupils will be treated fairly and with respect for their privacy and dignity.
- Children in Reception and Key Stage 1 will be allowed to change altogether in the same classroom.
- Children in Lower Key Stage 2 will be allowed to change altogether in the same classroom.
- For children in Upper Key Stage 2, we will designate a single sex area for the children to use to change. Classrooms will be used as one area and cloakrooms will be used for the other.
- Consideration of putting the window blinds down, while children are changing, will be made if this is appropriate and necessary for privacy.

- Visitors in school will not enter classrooms or spaces when children are changing.
- Parents and carers will be made aware of these arrangements and any issues that arise from changing dress will be discussed with a parent/carer on an individual basis, by the child's class teacher in the first instance.
- If Adults need to change their clothes, they will always do this privately, never in the same space as children. All staff will set an example by coming to school wearing appropriate sportswear, including footwear on the days they teach PE.
- Children will come to school already in their PE kits on their PE days or on days that they attend an after school sports club.
- PE kits can then be washed by parents when they are at home for reasons of hygiene.
- Adequate and sensitive arrangements for changing will be made for the needs of pupil's gender identity and sexual orientation and pupils from different religious and cultural backgrounds.

Supervision of children changing

- A judgement will be based on the age and developmental needs of the pupils but there will **not** be an assumption that adults need to remain in the room in order to maintain good behaviour in Upper Key Stage 2. This can be achieved by staff being in close proximity and pupils being made aware of this. Pupils will also know that adults will enter the room if necessary, in response to any disturbance or needs that may arise.
- It will usually be possible to leave the door of any designated changing area slightly ajar. This will mean that it is unlikely that occupants can be seen but help can be called upon quickly if required.
- If adults need to enter the room, they will alert pupils by announcing this, giving the children opportunity to cover up.

Children who may need assistance with getting changed

- Staff will refer to the guidance set out in the Intimate Care Policy for assisting children who are disabled or require additional help.
- Pupils of all ages will be encouraged to be as independent as possible. Adults will prompt and give verbal encouragement/ instructions before they consider offering assistance.
- Any assistance will take place openly, not out of sight of other members of staff.

Off-site changing rooms (e.g. public swimming pools)

- The details outlined above will still apply.
- Staff must supervise the swimming changing rooms, including showers to ensure no members of the public mix with the children.
- Children will shower in their swimwear.
- Children will change in same sex pairs in cubicles while staff wait in the swimming changing area.

Safeguarding

Dunholme St Chad's Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of its pupils and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.