



PONTARDDULAIS COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL YSGOL GYFUN PONTARDDULAIS



Toilet Policy Polisi Toiledau

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Learn to live...
live to learn

Byw I ddysgu...
dysgu byw

Introduction

This policy is based around the ***School toilets: Good practice guidance for schools in Wales*** as part of the Welsh Government guidance for schools and Local Authorities on how to provide and maintain good quality, hygienic toilet facilities for learners.

It corresponds with the minimum standards for hygiene in the Welsh Network of Healthy School Schemes (WNHSS) National Quality Award, and supports wider public health work in schools to improve health and well-being. It also fulfils interventions recommended by the Health Protection Agency in the Children's Environment and Health Strategy for the United Kingdom.

We must provide learners with the appropriate facilities to encourage them to use their school toilets and to enable them to wash their hands thoroughly afterwards. This relies on all schools providing the basics of soap, warm water and automatic hand-dryers/paper towels to ensure hand-hygiene compliance.

Legalities

Section 542 of the Education Act 1996 allows Welsh Ministers to prescribe, by way of secondary legislation, the standards for school premises, including school toilet facilities. The prescribed standards for schools are currently contained in the Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999.

The regulations and the non-statutory guidance are aimed at Local Authorities (LAs) and set out matters such as the number of toilets required in a school dependent on the age and number of learners; the separation and location of facilities depending on age and gender of learners; and the dimensions of facilities within school toilets. Regulation 17(3) of the 1999 Regulations requires the responsible body to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the occupants of a school building. Toilets form part of a school building and good hygiene can therefore be considered in this context.

Governing Bodies are responsible for monitoring the schools' arrangements for health and safety management. This responsibility includes providing a brief statement in the school governors annual report on the provision of toilet facilities for learners registered at the school and arrangements in place to ensure their cleanliness.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child (UNCRC) is an international convention that sets out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of children. Welsh Government has adopted the UNCRC as the basis of all its work for children and young people. Some of the articles within the UNCRC can be seen to relate directly to this area including:

- Article 3 – The best interests of the child
- Article 6 – The right to develop healthily
- Article 16 – The right to privacy
- Article 24 – The right to good quality health care.

Mandatory minimum standards

The Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999 stipulate minimum standards for school premises. The regulations set out the number of toilets and washbasins that should be provided according to the number of pupils in all existing and new maintained schools.

Toilets

- Pupils over 5 years of age: 1 toilet for every 20 pupils.
- There are designated toilets for each year group

Washbasins

The regulations require toilet areas for male and female learners over the age of eight to be separate unless there are dedicated unisex toilets, properly equipped and for users with special needs.

Girls' toilets should not have urinals. Staff toilets, other than those designed for disabled access, must be separate from learners' toilets. Providing the basic number of sanitary fittings will not, in itself, mean that all the relevant standards have been met. The regulations require washroom facilities (water closets, urinals, washbasins and sinks) to be adequate having regard to the ages, gender and number of learners and any relevant special requirement they may have.

- 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.

Aims of Policy

- To promote the health and wellbeing of all staff and pupils.
- To provide good quality toilet facilities throughout the school site for staff, visitors and pupils.

Objectives

- To ensure that all toilet facilities are suitable for users e.g. pupils/staff with disabilities have access to DDA compliant washroom facilities (grab bars/adequate flooring surfaces/lighting/fixtures and fittings).
- To ensure all toilet facilities remain functional throughout the school day.
- To ensure that all toilet facilities have:
 - Water supply for hand washing
 - Liquid soap dispensers
 - Toilet tissue dispensers.
 - Temperature of hot/cold water supplies tested regularly.
 - Hand drying facilities (hand dryers/towels) – Dryers tested by CCS/Supplies of towels monitored routinely.
- Fans installed within facilities to circulate/refresh air. Air fresheners are also present throughout all facilities.
- To ensure that sanitary disposal units are present in all female cubicles and emptied on a regular basis.
- Consider users privacy in toilet facilities; indicator bolts installed to cubicle doors. Maintained on a regular basis. A supply of bolts/locks carried by Site Officers.
- Ensure an effective toilet cleaning, supervision and inspection routine is in place, to maintain cleanliness/hygiene of washroom facilities throughout the school day. Cleaning staff using appropriate cleaning products. That this is reviewed in light of any pandemic and amended in accordance with all updated risk assessments.

- Ensure that break/lunchtime duty staff patrol toilet areas; any issues to be reported immediately.
- Conservation of energy: Light sensors and non-concussive taps in use throughout facilities.
- Wet weather areas provided to discourage pupil congregation in WC facilities.
- Any maintenance requests are made through the Head or Deputy/Head of Resources who informs the Premises & Site Superintendent.
- School Council meetings regularly held; pupils actively involved in the upkeep/provision of toilet facilities.
- To encourage pupils to respect the toilets and each other (via the School Council, PSE lessons, during form & assembly)
- To regularly include toilet management/provision issues in all appropriate school council, staff, parent and governor meetings.
- The school actively supports the provision of open access to well-maintained, clean, private and safe toilet facilities throughout the school day.
- All toilets are open throughout the day:
 - be accessible to pupils at the busiest time of day.
 - be convenient to pupils coming in from outside.
 - be visible to duty staff to discourage pupil congregation and to ensure rapid footfall at times of high demand.
 - maximise visibility to minimise towel litter and proximity to duty staff.