



SHOWERING POLICY



Showering Policy Jonah Special School

Introduction

Students have a right not to be discriminated against even if they are –

1. Not toilet trained.
2. Have a medical condition which leads to wetting or soiling.
3. Soil or wet themselves in school.

The Jonah Special School has a duty to provide an area for nappy changing and cleaning of children.

Aims

- Clarify the schools approach to showering children, for staff, students, BOM members, parents or carers, and to clarify the requirements and responsibilities.
- Give guidance on when, and how, to shower students.
- Ensure that safety procedures are followed and therefore give legal protection for staff involved in the showering of students.

Responsibilities

The Principal Will –

- Ensure that staff and parents are informed about this Shower Policy.
- Ensure that the policy is implemented effectively.
- Ensure that staff are given sufficient training.
- Liaise with external agencies regarding the school Shower Policy.
- Monitor the policy on a day-to-day basis, and report to BOM members, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

The Board of Management Will –

- Designate a member with specific responsibility for Health and Safety (Carol Deane).
- Establish general guidelines.
- Support the Principal in following these guidelines.
- Inform and consult with parents about the policy.
- Liaise with the Department of Education & Skills and health organizations, so that the school's policy is in line with the best advice available.



Use of the Shower

When?

- If students are soiled and cannot be cleaned adequately otherwise.
- In exceptional circumstances staff may use their professional judgment e.g. if there is a known medical condition or the student is persistently smelling.

How?

- Parents must sign to give permission.
- If permission is not given then students cannot be showered. In this instance the parents or carers must be contacted and the student sent home.
- Once a student has been showered the following details must be logged in the log book: date, name, reasons for showering and names of adults present when showering.

Guidance for Adults

- Two adults must be in the shower room.
- Instructions must be given to the student so that they can wash themselves.
- Adults are not to touch the student if this can be avoided.

Showering and Intimate Care Policy

- Student to use sponge/flannel and shower gel/soap which is PH neutral (please check for allergies before use).
- Student must dry themselves unless adult help is essential.
- Student to change into clean clothes.
- Where assistance is given to wash or dry themselves prior permission must be given by the parents or carers and this is logged in the book.
- Soiled clothing must be put into plastic bags and sealed before giving them back to the Parents or Carers.
- Parents or Carers must be informed on the same day if their child has been showered.
- If a student refuses to be showered or shows distress during showering then do not proceed. Contact the Parents or Carers and send them home.

Child Protection

If a student is continually showing signs of neglect due to cleanliness then this must be noted and reported to the Designated Liaison Person (Caitríona Barry) in the school.

If unusual marks or bruising is noticed then the Child Protection Policy must be followed (Please refer to Child Protection Policy).

The Role of Parents

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's health education lies with parents. The use of the school shower is not intended to replace the parent's role in regular washing and caring for their own child.



We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of our students, through mutual understanding, trust and cooperation. To promote this objective we will:

- Inform parents about the school Shower Policy.
- Invite parents to view the materials used to teach health education in our school.
- Answer any questions parents may have about the education their child receives in school.
- Take seriously any issue which parents raise about this policy.
- Encourage parents to be involved in reviewing the school policy, and making modifications to it as necessary.
- Inform parents about the best practice known with regard to cleanliness and health education, so that the parents can support the key messages being given to children at school.

Monitoring and Review

The Board of Management will monitor the Shower Policy on a regular basis. If the policy appears to need modification, then the Board of Management will consult widely before making these changes. This policy will be reviewed annually as a safeguarding policy.

Jonah Special School

Showering Policy

This policy was adopted by the Board of Management of Jonah Special School at its meeting held on:

Ratified by the Jonah Board of Management on: _____

Date

Signed: _____

Principal

Signed: _____

Chairperson, Board of Management

Next Review Period: *September 2028*



Appendix 1
Showering Policy Permission

1. I/ We give/ do not give permission for _____
to be showered in accordance with this policy.

2. I/ We give/ do not give permission for _____
to be assisted if absolutely necessary in washing and drying in the shower in accordance with
this policy.

Signed _____

Date _____

Please indicate permission for both questions.



17/10/2025

Dear Parents,

At our last Board of Management Meeting the attached Showering Policy was ratified by the BOM. Could you please read the policy and indicate if you agree with its provisions and return Appendix 1 to school for our records?

Should you need further clarification or to discuss any aspect of the policy I will be more than happy to do so.

Kind Regards,

Caitríona Barry

Caitríona Barry

Principal