

20th May 2022

Shirland Medical

: Policy Statement for Access to Toilet Facilities in Education Establishments:

<https://www.shirlandmedical.nhs.uk>

To the Head Teacher or Principal,

The policy of Shirland Medical is that **all students and learners should be able to access toilet facilities when needed to complete bodily functions**. We encourage your support around this basic human right. Please treat this as a letter requesting this for all of your students and learners.

The United Nations state that access to clean, appropriately stocked toilets whenever the need arises, is a fundamental human right and necessary for good health and wellbeing.

<https://www.unicef.org.uk/what-we-do/un-convention-child-rights/>

Please see the information from the Children's Bowel and Bladder Charity ERIC for further information. We recommend that all schools and educational establishments should adopt the school toilet charter to help meet these rights.

<https://www.eric.org.uk/school-toilet-charter>

<https://www.eric.org.uk/school-toilets>

It's in the best interests of pupils and schools to maintain clean, hygienic and pleasant toilets. Open access to high quality toilet facilities is crucial to pupils' health and well-being. Good toilets can also have a positive influence on pupils' willingness and ability to learn, their behaviour, morale and attendance levels.

Some of the problems associated with restricted access and poor school toilet facilities include:

- Medical conditions such as chronic constipation, wetting and urinary tract infections (UTIs) can be caused or aggravated by the avoidance of, or limited access to, school toilets.
- Restricted toilet access can cause significant anxiety which can have a direct ability on a child's ability to concentrate and affect their progress at school.
- Pupils avoiding using the toilets at school because they are dirty, smelly, lack basic provisions, are not private enough, or because they're not allowed to go to the loo when they need to.
- Children and teenagers limiting how much they eat and drink to avoid using the school loos. Not drinking enough water during the day can cause and aggravate problems with the bladder and bowel. It can also lead to dehydration and lack of concentration. This, in turn, can result in poor academic and sporting performance.

Yours Sincerely

The Team at Shirland Medical.