



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Cymry Ifanc Young Wales

School Toilets – Best Practice Guidance for Primary and Secondary Schools in Wales

Consultation on Draft Guidance document

Consultation Response Form	Your name: Dr Philip Dixon Organisation (if applicable): ATL- The Association of Teachers and Lecturers e-mail/telephone number: cymru@atl.org.uk Tel: 02920 465 000 Your address: 1 st Floor, 64 B Newport Road, Cardiff, CF24 0DF
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Guidance for Current and Continuous Good Standards

Question 1	YES	NO
Do you agree that the guidance sets out best practice for school toilets in primary and secondary schools?	x	
Any comments We agree that the guidance sets out best practice but believe that these policies can only be aspirational without additional funding to implement them. In schools, the main problems is controlling vandalism of school toilets. How schools manage this in an area where staff or CCTV presence is sensitive is the principal issue that needs to be addressed in this guidance. Schools do not have the resources to fit vandal proof equipment. On the issue of full-time access to toilets for pupils, it must be remembered		

that pupils are not always truthful. They may make a request to go to the toilet when they have a completely different intent. Staffing levels do not permit fully supervised corridors. It is not unheard of for a student to use a toilet request as a means to leave class and then go off and truant, smoke or engage in other undesirable activity. Schools usually have a control mechanism such as now more than one out at a time, or a toilet card system.

Question 2	YES	NO
Do you agree the guidance will help inform the school Governing Bodies and Head Teachers on an audit process for school toilets?	X	

Any comments

Policies should be aspirational. This policy has no additional funding associated with it and could possibly be used by Estyn to judge pupil well-being.

Question 3	YES	NO
Do you agree the guidance will encourage pupils to look after their own health and aid in reducing infection and the spread of disease?	X	

Any comments

Question 4	YES	NO
Do you agree the guidance will encourage schools to seek the participation of pupils, and write a school toilet policy?	X	
<p>Any comments</p> <p>Pupil involvement in this type of policy is to be welcomed. It would be a good policy for a school council to draw up and propose to the governing body.</p> <p>Regarding the issue of vandalism, school councils need to take a leading role in tackling the issues here.</p>		

Question 5
<p>We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, or suggestions as to anything that has been missed or could be usefully added to the guidance, please use this space to advise us:</p>
<p>Please enter here:</p> <p>One surprise in H&S legislation is that there appears to be no rule on the number of toilets a school should have for children. There is legislation covering workers (staff). This leads to the crazy situation that some schools have as many staff toilets as student toilets.</p> <p>We are concerned with the following statement: <i>“All toilet equipment, including cubicle seats, is thoroughly cleaned at the end of each day, and similarly during a non-break time during the day with consideration given to pupils who require these facilities at this time”.</i></p> <p>The majority of schools would be unable to meet the guidance to <u>thoroughly clean during the day</u> as schools would not have the budget to employ a cleaner during the day. Not all Caretakers have cleaning duties if they do then often this is in addition to their caretaking duties. If schools did embark on meeting this need we may have members who will be asked to change their working pattern to accommodate a clean during the day.</p>

Lack of funding for repair & maintenance means that LAs are way behind the game in terms of refurbishment. It is unacceptable that in the 21st Century we still have schools without adequate toilets.

Question 6

If you have anecdotal or photographic examples of good practice regard school toilets in Primary and Secondary Schools you are willing to share please detail and/or attach to your response.

We would also welcome examples of survey forms, to help promote good practice.

Please enter here:

How the views and information you give us will be used

Any response you send us will be seen in full by Welsh Assembly Government staff dealing with the issues which this consultation is about. It may also be seen by other Welsh Assembly Government staff to help them plan future consultations.

The Welsh Assembly Government intends to publish a summary of the responses to this document. We may also publish responses in full. Normally, the name and address (or part of the address) of the person or organisation who sent the response are published with the response. This helps to show that the consultation was carried out properly. If you do not want your name or address published, please tell us this in writing when you send your response. We will then blank them out.

Names or addresses we blank out might still get published later, though we do not think this would happen very often. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 allow the public to ask to see information held by many public bodies, including the Welsh Assembly Government. This includes information which has not been published. However, the law also allows us to withhold information in some circumstances. If anyone asks to see information we have withheld, we will have to decide whether to release it or not. If someone has asked for their name and address not to be published, that is an important fact we would take into account. However, there might sometimes be important reasons why we would have to reveal someone's name and address, even though they have asked for them not to be published. We would get in touch with the person and ask their views before we finally decided to reveal the information

Responses to consultations may be made public – on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to be kept confidential, please tick here: