



Ratby Primary School

Inspiring a love of learning



Headteacher: Mrs Lisa Jones

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Clare Astill **Assistant Headteacher:** Mrs Kayleigh Denton

Friday 17th September 2021

Dear Parents,

It has come to my attention through a number of screenshots that have been shared with me that are concerned about the level of care given to our pupils with regard to toileting in EYFS.

Firstly, can I start by saying that the welfare of each child is our top priority in school. Our team of 5 very experienced and dedicated EYFS staff supervise and teach a cohort of 53 children. All staff are available first thing in the morning or at the end of the school day to discuss any concerns or issues you may have. There is also a home-school diary should you wish to leave a note for the class teacher. I too, am on the front playground in the morning, should you wish to speak with me.

There is an expectation that children starting school are toilet trained and able to manage their own needs (Birth to 3 years - Development Matters 2020 p49). This was highlighted in the EYFS Parent Handbook that was sent out to all new parents in the summer term. However, we do recognise that some children may have a medical condition which requires them to have an individualised support plan with regard to intimate care and this is something that can be arranged by meeting with the school SENCo, Mrs Hurn. We also recognise that, on occasion, young children may have an accident and require our help.

Our school policy is to ensure that 2 members of staff are present when supporting a child who needs changing for safeguarding reasons, and therefore, if a large number of children require support, this does have a knock-on effect on the time available for teaching our young children. It is also our policy to encourage independence and our staff will guide and support a child to clean themselves as much as possible and change their own clothing.

Changing children is not part of any member of staff's job description, yet they do this, so that our children are not left wet or soiled or parents do not have to leave their home or job to come in and change their child. However, we can only support a child if they confide in an adult or staff members become aware that a child needs this support. Checking children's pants is not part of their role and not appropriate in a school setting.

As part of the screenshots that have been shared with me, I am aware that some parents have made inaccurate statements as well as hurtful, upsetting comments about members of my staff. I was shocked by the cyber bullying that I have witnessed from adults and the language they were using. It concerns me greatly that older children may have seen this behaviour and will think that it is acceptable.



Ratby Primary School is a part of
BRADGATE EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP
Company number **08168237**
Trust Offices, Wreake Valley Academy
Parkstone Road, Syston, Leicester, LE7 1LY

Main Street,
Ratby,
Leicestershire,
LE6 OLN
Website: www.ratby.bepschools.org
Email: office@ratby.bepschools.org
Tel: 0116 239 3610





Ratby Primary School

Inspiring a love of learning



Headteacher: Mrs Lisa Jones

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Clare Astill **Assistant Headteacher:** Mrs Kayleigh Denton

The school has copies of the screen shots of the comments made and I am urging parents to remove such comments. If it is not removed, or further defamatory comments are made, we will take further advice. If further comments are made I will directly contact individual parents to discuss this matter further.

The school welcomes constructive criticism; it is the only way an organisation can improve. The school's complaints procedure is on the school website. Please consider carefully comments that you make online as they can cause harm to individuals and the school, neither of which helps our children or helps to build strong relationships between home and school, to ultimately help our children flourish.

Thankyou for your continued support.

Mrs Jones
Headteacher.

Our Social Media expectations are set out below.

Social media websites are increasingly being used as a media for complaints against schools, their staff and other parents and families. Ratby Primary School considers the use of social media websites in this manner as inappropriate and unacceptable. Complaints made this way are not in the best interests of the children or whole school and wider community.

Any concerns, must be made through the appropriate channels as outlined in the complaints policy and as general good manners.

In the event of any pupil, parent, carer or family member of a child/ren being educated at Ratby Primary School is found to be posting libellous or defamatory comments on Whats App, Facebook or other social network sites, appropriate steps will be taken to report and remove the comment. All social network sites have clear rules about the content that can be posted on their site and they provide robust mechanisms to report activity or content which breaches this. In serious cases school will also consider its legal options to deal with any such misuse of social networking and other sites. We take all incidents of bullying seriously both against pupils and staff, the misuse of social networking to voice concerns or complaints is a form of cyber bullying.



Ratby Primary School is a part of
BRADGATE EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP
Company number **08168237**
Trust Offices, Wreake Valley Academy
Parkstone Road, Syston, Leicester, LE7 1LY

Main Street,
Ratby,
Leicestershire,
LE6 0LN

Website: www.ratby.bepschools.org

Email: office@ratby.bepschools.org

Tel: 0116 239 3610

