

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Operation DIY

Supporting Children in Reaching Milestones towards Independence and Responsibility

If a child is unable to manage certain tasks that we would consider appropriate for their age, we would:

- Ask the child to request help from their parent to teach them the skill e.g. tying a tie
- Encourage them to try for themselves and provide a demonstration if needed (e.g. doing up a zip)
- Help some of the way and then expect them to continue by themselves (e.g. cutting up food)
- Only complete a task on behalf of a child if there was a real safety risk (e.g. tying shoelaces whilst out in the street)
- In school, the children are familiar with the 'Help Desk' and using the 3 or 4 B's
- (buddy, brain, bits 'n' bobs and be brave)

If a child asks for help with a problem we might ask them to first think about how they will sort it for themselves - asking questions encourages learning.

If a child has behaved in a way that is disrespectful to another or the community we would ask them to consider the impact of their choice.

We will praise and encourage independent and thoughtful behaviour when we see it so that all children are aware of the things that we value.

Qualities, Attributes and Behaviours of Responsible and Independent Children

These are a selection of the skills we would expect infant children to be working towards with independence; and junior children to be achieving.

- Make sure that parents see letters and notes from school
- Bring in permission slips, and letters from home and give to the teacher
- To be able to organise their own homework, bring it into school on time
- Carry their own belongings, school bags/PE bags etc
- Be responsible for remembering to bring additional items to school e.g. PE kit, musical instruments
- To pack their own school bag/PE kit
- Lock their own bicycle/scooter up
- To be able to dress themselves, including ties, shoelaces, zips and buttons
- **Use a knife and fork to cut up their own food**
- To take responsibility for looking after their own belongings, particularly removable ones such as coats, jumpers, hats etc
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- To be able to make the right choice about when they need to wear a coat, hat etc.
- Tidy up after themselves
- Look after their own physical needs e.g. going to the toilet and washing hands etc
- To be able to listen to and follow instructions
- To understand the consequences of their own choices
- To take responsibility for the above themselves instead of "My mum forgot to..." (we hear this a lot!)

Shortly the children will be bringing home a self-assessment sheet with specific age - related skills. This will be the opportunity for them to evaluate what they already do and then select new skills to practice. These can be signed off by parents and the achievements celebrated in school.