

Intimate Care Policy

It is the expectation that children entering school in the reception year are toilet trained unless they have a disability that prevents this.

This means reception children should be able to sort their clothing (may need help with fastenings) and clean themselves on the toilet. Most children have the odd 'accident' and we can accommodate for this in school and keep spare clothing for such purposes.

Children who are not toilet trained due to a disability will need to be allocated teaching assistant time for this purpose so please make an appointment with the head teacher to discuss this.

Intimate Care is any care which involves washing, touching or carrying out an invasive procedure (such as cleaning up a child after they have soiled themselves) to intimate personal areas. In most cases such care will involve cleaning for hygiene purposes as part of a staff member's duty of care.

The issue of intimate care is a sensitive one and requires staff to be respectful of each child's needs. The child's dignity will always be preserved with a high level of privacy, choice and control. There shall be a high awareness of child protection issues at all times by staff undertaking intimate care. All staff will work in partnership with parents/carers to provide continuity of care to each child.

DBS checks are undertaken for all staff and renewed every three years

Our approach to best practice.

The management of all children with intimate care needs will, where possible, be carefully planned and children requiring intimate care on a regular basis (those with a disability) will have a care plan that has been agreed with a parent/carer. The needs and wishes of parents/carers will be taken into account within the constraints of staffing and equal opportunities legislation.

The child who requires intimate care is treated with respect at all times; the child's welfare and dignity is of paramount importance. We aim to respect the right of all children to privacy in the area of personal care, to help them to recognise this right and then help them develop as much independence in this area as possible. Children will be cleaned up and clean nappy/underwear put on in a vertical (standing) position. The adult/s will talk the child through the process so they know what is happening now and next.

Intimate care is generally where possible carried out in access toilet areas with thought to ensuring the child has as much privacy as possible whilst intimate care is taking place (e.g. screening) whilst at the same time being aware of child protection procedures. All staff providing personal care will wear gloves and soiled nappies, wipes and gloves will be placed in a nappy sack after use, tied securely and deposited in a bin specifically for this purpose. This bin is emptied daily.

Where it is not possible to clean a child in the vertical position to a suitably hygienic state or the child is very distressed or uncooperative, then the parent/carer will be notified and asked to arrange for collection of the child.