



INTIMATE CARE POLICY

November 2023

Intimate Care and Toileting

Jubilee Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. We are committed to ensuring that all staff responsible for intimate care of children and young people will undertake their duties in a professional manner at all times.

Intimate care is defined as any care which involves washing, touching or carrying out an intimate procedure that most children carry out for themselves, but which some are unable to do.

Examples include:

- support with dressing and undressing (underwear),
- changing nappies,
- helping someone use the toilet or
- washing intimate parts of the body.

SEND pupils may be unable to meet their own care needs for a variety of reasons and will require regular support.

We recognise that there is a need for children and young people to be treated with respect when intimate care is given. No child shall be attended to in a way that causes distress, embarrassment or pain. Staff will work in close partnership with parents and carers to share information and provide continuity of care.

It is generally expected that most children will be toilet trained and out of nappies before they begin at school or nursery. However, it is inevitable that from time to time some children will have accidents and need to be attended to. In addition to this, SEND children may require adult assistance for their personal and intimate care needs.

As children start in the nursery, and in order to help them to become aware of their bodily needs and respond to them in time, those who wish to go to the toilet are always allowed to go, although they are encouraged as they progress through the school to use the toilet at break times.

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In the Early Years, parents are encouraged to provide a complete set of spare clothes. The school also keeps a stock of spare clothes in various sizes. EY staff have access to a private bathroom with toilets, hand basins, and a shower with access to warm water. There is also a stock of baby wipes, plastic bags and disposable protective gloves, aprons and masks for staff to use, which they must do.

If a children soils themselves during school time, one member of the EY staff (teacher, NEO, TA) will help the child:

- To remove their soiled clothes.
- Clean the skin
- Get dressed in fresh clothes and put the soiled clothes in a plastic bag to give to parents to take home.

If the soiling is unmanageable with wipes alone, the child may be washed in the nursery shower. When this occurs, there will always be 2 members of staff present, and the door will be kept ajar to allow privacy for the child. The parent or carer will always be notified if the child soils themselves and/or needs to be washed in the shower.

At all times the members of staff pay attention to the level of distress and comfort of the child. If the child is ill, the member of staff will telephone the parent/carer. In the event a child is reluctant and finally refuses, the parent/carer will be contacted immediately.

Our intention is that the child will never be left in soiled clothing and as soon as the member of staff responsible for him/her is aware of the situation, they will clean the child. It is intended that the child will not experience any negative responses, but only positive encouragement and praise for their endeavours to master this necessary skill. It is always our intention to avoid drawing attention to such events and to positively encourage the child in their efforts to gain these skills.

Our approach to best practice for needs over and above accidents:

- The management of all children with intimate care needs will be carefully planned.
- Where specialist equipment and facilities above those currently available in the school are required, efforts will be made to provide appropriate facilities in a timely fashion, following assessment by a Physiotherapist and/or Occupational Therapist.
- Staff will be supported to adapt their practice in relation to the needs of individual children taking into account developmental changes.
- Pupils will be supported to achieve the highest level of independence possible, according to their individual conditions and abilities.
- Careful consideration will be given to individual situations to determine how many adults should be present during intimate care procedures. Where possible one pupil will be cared for by one adult unless there is a sound reason for having more adults present. The door to the toilet area will not be shut.
- The needs and wishes of children and parents will be taken into account wherever possible, within the constraints of staffing and equal opportunities legislation.
- Where a care plan is not in place and a child has needed help with intimate care (in the case of a toilet 'accident') then parents/carers will be informed the same day.