

Lingfield Primary School

A Personal Best School



Intimate Care Policy

Date Agreed by Governors	Summer 2024
Review Date	Summer 2025

Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Intimate care is carried out properly by staff, in line with any agreed plans
- The dignity, rights and wellbeing of children are safeguarded
- Pupils with intimate care difficulties are not discriminated against, in line with the Equalities Act 2010
- Parents are assured that staff are knowledgeable about intimate care and that the needs of their children are taken into account
- Staff carrying out intimate care work do so within guidelines (i.e. health and safety, manual handling, safeguarding protocols awareness, use of a Changing Log) that protect themselves and the pupils involved
- Intimate care refers to any care which involves toileting, washing, changing, touching or carrying out a procedure to children's intimate personal areas.

Legislation and statutory guidance

This policy complies with [statutory safeguarding guidance](#).

Role of parents

Seeking parental permission

For children who need routine intimate care (e.g. for toileting or toileting accidents) as part of an intimate care plan, parents will be asked to sign a consent form.

It is not expected for children beyond Nursery to require regular changing outside of an intimate care plan.

For children whose needs are more complex or who need particular support beyond age-appropriate accidents, an intimate care plan will be created in discussion with parents and health care professionals (see section 3.2 below).

Where there isn't an intimate care plan or parental consent for routine care in place, parental permission will be sought before performing any intimate care procedure.

If the school is unable to get in touch with parents and an intimate care procedure urgently needs to be carried out, the procedure will be carried out to ensure the child is comfortable, and the school will inform parents at the earliest opportunity.

Creating an intimate care plan

Where an intimate care plan is required, it will be agreed in discussion between the school, parents, the child (when possible) and health care professionals.

The school will work with parents and take their preferences on board to make the process of intimate care as comfortable as possible, dealing with needs sensitively and appropriately.

Subject to their age and understanding, the preferences of the child will also be taken into account. If there's doubt whether the child is able to make an informed choice, their parents will be consulted.

The plan will be reviewed twice a year, even if no changes are necessary, and updated regularly, as well as whenever there are changes to a pupil's needs.

Sharing information

The school will share information with parents as needed to ensure a consistent approach. It will expect parents to also share relevant information regarding any intimate matters as needed.

Role of staff

Which staff will be responsible

All staff at the school who carry out intimate care will have been subject to an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) with a barred list check before appointment, as well as other checks on their employment history.

How staff will be trained

Staff will receive annual safeguarding training.

Intimate care procedures

How procedures will happen

It is best practice from a health and safety and safeguarding perspective to have 2 members of staff present. If this is not possible, the member of staff carrying out the procedure will log the incident in the Changing Log as soon as possible.

Procedures will be carried out in a location that enables minimal disruption to learning but that allows staff supervision to take place.

When carrying out procedures, the school will provide staff with:

- Protective gloves, cleaning supplies, changing mats and bins as required.

Where possible, pupils will be changed and/or cleaned in a standing position.

For pupils needing routine intimate care, the school expects parents to provide, when necessary, a good stock (at least a week's worth in advance) of necessary resources, such as nappies, underwear and/or a spare set of clothing.

Any soiled clothing will be contained securely, clearly labelled, and discreetly returned to parents at the end of the day.

Concerns about safeguarding

If a member of staff carrying out intimate care has concerns about physical changes in a child's appearance (e.g. marks, bruises, soreness), they will report this using the school's safeguarding procedures to the DSL.

If a child is hurt accidentally or there is an issue when carrying out the procedure, the staff member will report the incident immediately to DSL.

If a child makes an allegation against a member of staff, the responsibility for intimate care of that child will be given to another member of staff as quickly as possible and the allegation will be investigated according to the school's safeguarding procedures.

Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed by the DSL and Headteacher annually every review, the policy will be approved by the governors.

Links with other policies

This policy links to the following policies and procedures:

- Accessibility plan
- Child protection and safeguarding
- Health and safety
- SEND
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions

Appendix 1: template intimate care plan

Parents/Carers	
Name of child	
Type of intimate care needed	
How often care will be given	
What training staff will be given	
Where care will take place	
What resources and equipment will be used, and who will provide them	
How procedures will differ if taking place on a trip or outing	
Name of senior member of staff responsible for ensuring care is carried out according to the intimate care plan	
Name of parent or carer	
Relationship to child	

Signature of parent or carer	
Date	
child	
How many members of staff would you like to help?	
Do you mind having a chat when you are being changed or washed?	
Signature of child	
Date	

Appendix 2: template parent/carer consent form

Permission for school to provide intimate care	
Name of child	
Date of birth	
Name of parent/carer	
Address	
I give permission for the school to provide appropriate intimate care to my child (e.g. changing soiled clothing, washing and toileting)	<input type="checkbox"/>
I will advise the school of anything that may affect my child's personal care (e.g. if medication changes or if my child has an infection)	<input type="checkbox"/>
I understand the procedures that will be carried out and will contact the school immediately if I have any concerns	<input type="checkbox"/>

I **do not** give consent for my child to be given intimate care (e.g. to be washed and changed if they have a toileting accident).



Instead, the school will contact me or my emergency contact and I will organise for my child to be given intimate care (e.g. be washed and changed).

I understand that if the school cannot reach me or my emergency contact if my child needs urgent intimate care, staff will need to provide this for my child, following the school's intimate care policy, to make them comfortable and remove barriers to learning.

Parent/carer signature	
Name of parent/carer	
Relationship to child	
Date	