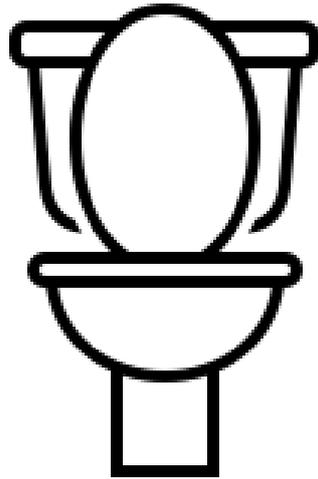


Intimate Care Policy



Written By	R. Eldred	Approved By	Governors
Date	Jan 2026	Review Date	Jan 2027
Review Cycle	Reviewed and approved by the full governing board annually.		

Policy Statement

This Intimate Care Policy has been developed to safeguard and support pupils and staff within this Somerset infant school. The school recognises its responsibility to meet the intimate care needs of young children in a respectful, dignified and safe manner, while promoting independence wherever possible.

Intimate care will be provided in line with the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, Health and Safety Policy, Equality Policy, and guidance issued by Somerset local authority.

Definition of Intimate Care

Intimate care is defined as any care that involves washing, touching or carrying out a procedure that most children can carry out for themselves, but which some children require help with. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Supporting toileting needs
 - Changing wet or soiled clothing
 - Supporting personal hygiene (e.g. cleaning after toileting)
 - Supporting children following illness or accidents
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Policy Aims

The aims of this policy are to:

- Safeguard the dignity, rights and well-being of every child
 - Promote children's independence and self-care skills
 - Protect staff from misunderstandings or allegations
 - Ensure clear and consistent practice across the school
 - Work in partnership with parents/carers
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Principal of Intimate Care

Intimate care at this school will be:

- Child-centred, respecting each child's dignity and privacy
- Provided with sensitivity and respect
- Consistent with safeguarding and health and safety requirements
- Agreed in partnership with parents/carers
- Inclusive and non-discriminatory

Children will be encouraged and supported to achieve the highest possible level of independence appropriate to their age and development.

Roles and Responsibilities

Governing Body

The Governing Body is responsible for ensuring that:

- This policy is implemented and reviewed regularly
- Appropriate safeguarding arrangements are in place

Headteacher

The Headteacher is responsible for:

- Ensuring staff are aware of and follow this policy

- Ensuring staff receive appropriate training
- Managing concerns or complaints related to intimate care

Staff

All staff involved in intimate care must:

- Follow this policy and related safeguarding procedures
- Treat children with dignity and respect at all times
- Maintain appropriate records where required
- Report any concerns immediately in line with safeguarding procedures

Procedures for Intimate Care

- Intimate care will only be provided by trained and authorised staff.
- Wherever possible, care will be provided by two members of staff nearby or aware, although one-to-one support may be appropriate depending on circumstances.
- Doors will remain ajar or appropriate safeguarding measures will be in place.
- Gloves and appropriate personal protective equipment will be used.
- Children will be spoken to throughout the process to explain what is happening.
- Staff will not carry out any procedure they are uncomfortable with.

Toileting Accidents

- Children who have an accident will be reassured and supported calmly.
- Soiled clothing will be double-bagged and sent home.
- Parents/carers will be informed discreetly at the end of the day or sooner if appropriate.

Working with Parents/Carers

The school recognises the importance of working in partnership with parents/carers. Parents/carers are expected to:

- Inform the school of any toileting or intimate care needs
- Provide spare clothing and personal care items where needed
- Work with the school to support the child's independence

For children with ongoing needs, an Individual Intimate Care Plan may be agreed.

Safeguarding

All intimate care procedures are carried out within the school's safeguarding framework. Any concerns about a child's well-being or a member of staff's conduct must be reported immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Staff must be vigilant for signs of discomfort, distress or changes in behaviour and act accordingly.

Equality and Inclusion

The school is committed to ensuring that all children, regardless of disability, medical need, gender, culture or background, are supported appropriately. Intimate care arrangements will be reasonable, inclusive and sensitive to individual needs.

Training and Support

Staff involved in intimate care will receive:

- Safeguarding training
 - Guidance on safe intimate care practices
 - Ongoing support from senior leaders
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Complaints

Any concerns or complaints regarding intimate care should be raised with the Headteacher in the first instance and will be dealt with in line with the school's Complaints Policy.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed regularly, at least every two years, or sooner if guidance or circumstances change.