

Intimate Care Policy 2026 - 2027

Approved by: Governors	**Date: November 2026**
Signed by Chair of Governors: Mrs J Clarke	**Date: November 2026**
Next review due by: November 2027	

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There are times when a child may require a change of clothes whilst at school. The purpose of this policy is to provide clear guidelines and procedures for providing the intimate care of all children, including procedures for staff changing or supporting the changing of children in these circumstances.

These guidelines and procedures apply to changing a child in a range of circumstances, for example:

- When a child has wet or soiled themselves due to having not reached continence as part of a specific medical condition or global developmental delay
- When a child has been vomited on or is wet or soiled themselves
- When a child has become dirty or wet from involvement in play activities, for example; painting or water play
- When a child requires support and assistance changing for physical activities.

These guidelines are designed to promote good practice and safeguard children and practitioners. These apply to everyone involved with the intimate care of children within Belle Vue Primary School Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS – Reception and Nursery 3).

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 considered
- Staff carrying out intimate care work do so within guidelines (i.e. health and safety, manual handling, safeguarding protocols awareness) that protect themselves and the pupils involved

Intimate care refers to any care which involves toileting, washing, changing, touching or carrying out an invasive procedure such as giving a suppository to children's intimate personal areas.

1. Legislation and statutory guidance

This policy complies with statutory safeguarding guidance.

2. Toilet Training

When pupils start at Belle Vue, EYFS staff are understanding of the challenging time for both children and their parents in a new setting. It is a time of growth and very rapid developmental change for all children. As with all developmental milestones in the EYFS there is wide variation in the time span in which children master the skills involved in being fully toilet trained.
We understand that children may enter the setting as being;

- fully toilet trained
- fully toilet trained but regressed a little due to the excitement or stress of starting at the setting
- fully toilet trained at home but have accidents in the setting, or vice versa
- nearly trained but needing some reminders and encouragement
- not toilet trained but respond well to a structured toilet training process (Staff will work with parents to arrange this ensuring that there is consistency between home and school).
- fully toilet trained but has a serious disability or learning difficulty
- in need of additional support due to development delays.
- has identified SEND and require help with some or all aspects of their personal care.
- toilet trained but may have accident due to a medical condition.

3. Role of parents

3.1 Seeking parental permission

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

For children whose needs are more complex or who need particular support outside of what's covered in the permission form (if used), an intimate care plan will be created in discussion with parents.

Where there isn't an intimate care plan 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 afterwards.

3.2 Creating an intimate care plan

Where an intimate care plan is required, it will be agreed in discussion between the school, parents and any relevant health professionals.

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

See appendix 1 for a blank template plan to see what this will cover.

3.3 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.

4. Role of staff

4.1 Which staff will be responsible

Any roles who may carry out intimate care will have this set out in their job description. It will always be a familiar member of staff will change a child when required.

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.

4.2 How staff will be trained

Staff will receive:

- Training in the specific types of intimate care they undertake
- Regular safeguarding training
- If necessary, manual handling training that enables them to remain safe and for the pupil to have as much participation as is possible

They will be familiar with:

- The control measures set out in risk assessments carried out by the school
- Hygiene and health and safety procedures.

They will also be encouraged to seek further advice as needed.

5. Intimate care procedures

Procedures will be carried out in an appropriate private area, for example disabled toilet.

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

- Equipment required
- PPE
- Any other requirements as documented in the intimate care plan

For pupils who are not toilet trained and wear nappies, 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, and discreetly returned to parents at the end of the day.

5.2 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.

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 the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

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.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed by the DSL and EYFS lead annually, at every review, the policy will be approved by governing board.

7. Links with other policies

This policy links to the following policies and procedures:

- Accessibility plan
- Child protection and safeguarding
- Health and safety
- SEN

Appendix 1: template intimate care plan

PARENTS/CARERS	
Name of child	
Type of intimate care needed	
How often care 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	

Appendix 2: template parent/carer consent form

PERMISSION FOR SCHOOL TO PROVIDE INTIMATE CARE	
Name of child	
Date of birth	
Name of parent/carer	
I give permission for the school to provide appropriate intimate care to my child (e.g. changing soiled clothing, washing and toileting)	☐
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)	☐
I understand the procedures that will be carried out and will contact the school immediately if I have any concerns	☐
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	

Appendix 3: Parent/Carer Letter

Dear Parents/Carers,

Your child _____soiled/wet themselves today.

They changed their clothes independently ☐

They changed their clothes with support ☐

They were changed by an adult ☐

In accordance with our policy the incident has been recorded.

In your child's bag you will find soiled/wet clothes. If your child has been provided with spare school clothes, could you kindly return them after they have been laundered.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs S. Richardson
EYFS Lead