


Policy:	<b>Toileting/Intimate Care Policy</b> Dec 2023	
Status:	Non-statutory	
Review Date:	3 yearly – Dec 2026	

### **School statement**

Our expectation is that young children should have achieved continence when they are admitted to school. We recognise that young children vary widely in their levels of maturity and in achieving continence. We also recognise that children may have a lapse in their continence because of trauma, onset of sudden disability, emotional upset or health problems.

We will do our best to support children in partnership, but the school does need the support of parents if children need a change of clothing or they have become distressed. In some circumstances we may need, and will reserve the right, to contact parents and request that the child should be collected from school.

### **What the school expects of parents:**

- parents will endeavour to ensure that their child is continent before admission to school (unless the child has additional needs)
- parents will discuss any specific concerns with staff about their child's toileting needs
- parents accept that on occasions their child may need to be collected from school.

### **What parents expect of our school:**

- staff will deal sensitively with all children's toileting needs
- staff will encourage children to become independent and confident in coping with their own toileting needs
- staff will contact parents if their child becomes distressed or is unwell in order that he/she can be collected from school.

### **Special educational needs and child protection issues**

If a child's toileting needs are substantially different than those expected of a child his age, a toileting programme would be agreed with parents as advised by a Health Professional. If there is no progress over a long period of time, e.g. half a term, the SEN Co-ordinator, teaching staff and parents would seek further support, e.g. G.P's referral of child for specialist assessment. LA guidance states that, 'In only the most exceptional circumstances, where a child's toileting problem is related to other significant difficulties, will a child be subject to statutory assessment for a Statement of Special Educational Needs.'

### **Reducing the risk to school staff in terms of misinterpretation and false allegations of abuse**

- ❖ Wherever possible staff should be accompanied by another member of staff when helping a child with toileting difficulties. All incidents will be logged.
- ❖ Children should be dealt with in a caring and sensitive manner.
- ❖ Wherever possible children should be encouraged to change themselves with staff providing the minimum level of assistance and intervention, compatible with the child's needs.
- ❖ During the delivery of intimate care, should the member of staff have cause for concern regarding possible child abuse, the recognised child protection procedures should be followed.

### Infection control

- ❖ Effective hand washing by staff and pupils is promoted by the school.
- ❖ Latex gloves and plastic aprons should be worn by any member of staff when in contact with bodily fluids.
- ❖ Any lightly soiled clothing should be double bagged and returned to parents/carers for laundering, with any faeces being disposed of down a toilet pan.
- ❖ Any heavily soiled clothing should be disposed of or laundered by the school (as agreed with parents), with any faeces being disposed of down a toilet pan.
- ❖ If a child is particularly soiled, with wet wipes not being a sufficient tool, then a shower is available to clean the child.