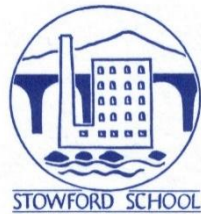


Stowford Nursery
Intimate Care Policy



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Reviewed: January 2026
Date of next review: January 2027

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Introduction

All children at Stowford Nursery have the right to be safe, to be treated with courtesy, dignity and respect and to be able to access all aspects of the education curriculum.

This policy sets out the clear principles and guidance on supporting intimate care needs with specific reference to toileting. It is to be considered in line with our Administering of Medicines Policy.

The Equality Act 2010

In line with the above named Act, Stowford Nursery will ensure:

- No child's physical, mental, sensory or mental impairment will have an adverse effect on their ability to participate in day-to-day activities
- No child with a named condition that affects personal development will be discriminated against
- No child who is delayed in achieving continence will be refused admission
- No child will be sent home or have to wait for their parents due to incontinence
- Adjustments will be made for any child who has delayed incontinence

Aims

The aims of this policy and associated guidance are:

- To safeguard the rights and promote the welfare of children
- To provide guidance and reassurance to staff whose contact require intimate care
- To assure parents/carers that staff are knowledgeable about personal care and that their individual concerns are taken into account
- To remove barriers to learning and participation, protect from discrimination and ensure inclusion for all children

Definition of Intimate Care

- 'Intimate Care' can be defined as care tasks of an intimate nature associated with bodily functions, bodily products and personal hygiene, which require direct or indirect contact with, or exposure of, the sexual parts of the body.
- It also incorporates changing colostomy or ileostomy bags, managing catheters/stomas or other appliances

Intimate care tasks include:

- Dressing and undressing (underwear)
- Helping someone use the toilet
- Changing nappies/pull ups

Definition of Personal Care

- 'Personal Care' may still involve touching but is of a less intimate nature
- Personal care is usually associated with personal presentation and hence is regarded as social functioning
- These tasks do not invade personal, private or social space and can lead to positive social outcomes for children

Identifying Personal Care Tasks

Personal care tasks include:

- Skin care/applying external medication
- Administering oral medication
- Hair Care
- Dressing and undressing (clothing)
- Washing non-intimate parts of the body
- Prompting to go to the toilet

Basic Principles

Children's intimate care needs cannot be seen in isolation or separated from other aspects of their lives. Encouraging them to participate in their own intimate or personal care is therefore part of our approach at Stowford Nursery.

We will bear in mind the following principles:

- Children have the right to feel safe and secure
- There will be no barriers to learning and participation
- Children will be respected and valued as individuals
- Children have a right to privacy/dignity when staff are meeting their needs
- Children have the right to information and support to enable them to make choices
- Children have the right to be accepted for who they are
- Children have the right to express their views and be heard
- A child's Intimate/Personal Care plan is designed to lead to independence

Wherever possible, a child's key worker will carry out a child's intimate care. Where key workers are not available, we will try wherever possible to ensure it is still a more familiar member of staff.

Vulnerability to Abuse

We will ensure that all staff at Stowford Nursery are familiar with our Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures to protect children from any form of abuse.

They will also be made aware that they are vulnerable to accusations of abuse whilst attending to intimate or personal care and therefore should act in accordance with agreed procedures.

Working with Parents/Carers

At Stowford Nursery we will work with parents/carers when attending to intimate or personal care routines. If a child has any disability or medical needs that may affect intimate/personal care routines, a Health Care Plan will be drawn up in agreement with parents/carers.

Links with other Agencies

When a child with special care needs or disabilities is helped by other agencies, we will work closely with those agencies to take account of the knowledge, skills and expertise of other professionals to ensure the child's wellbeing and development remains the focus of our concern.

Achieving Continence

At Stowford Nursery we understand that in some cases achieving continence can assume significance beyond all others. Parents/Carers sometimes feel guilty that this aspect of learning has not been achieved.

At Stowford Nursery we aim to encourage continence through:

- Getting to know how the child will communicate their needs
- Having a knowledge and respect for any cultural or religious sensitivities related to aspects of intimate care
- Speaking to the child so that they are aware of the focus of the activity
- Address the child in age appropriate ways
- Give explanations as to what is happening in a straightforward and reassuring way
- Agree terminology for parts of the body and bodily functions with parents to ensure continuity
- Respect a child's preference for a particular sequence of care
- Give strong clues that enable the child to anticipate and prepare for the events i.e. show them a clean nappy to indicate the intention to change
- Encourage the child to undertake as much of the procedure for themselves including dressing/undressing
- Use lots of praise and encouragement when they achieve continence
- Seek the child's permission before undressing if he/she is unable to do it themselves
- Provide facilities that afford privacy and modesty
- Keep records noting responses to intimate care and changes of behaviour

Parents/carers will be asked to supply:

- Spare nappies
- Spare clothes
- Spare underwear
- Spare socks

A small supply of clothing will be stored on the premises should a parent not include any of the above.

Protection for Staff

As far as possible, intimate/personal care procedures will be carried out by one person, protection being afforded to the single member of staff in the following ways:

- Staff will be trained in good working practices which comply with health and safety regulations as set out in our Health and Safety Policy under Toilet and Nappy Changing.
- Staff will implement the strategies outlined in achieving continence above
- Staff will inform other staff members discreetly that they are taking the child to carry out a care procedure
- If a situation occurs that causes staff embarrassment or concern, a second member of staff should be called if necessary and the incident reported to the Manager/s and recorded
- Where staff are concerned about a child's actions or comments whilst carrying out the personal care procedure, this should be recorded and discussed with the Manager immediately
- Risk Assessments will be carried out for toileting and nappy changing procedures

Staff will be trained in the area of intimate/personal care for children with specific needs and procedure for safe moving and handling

Managing Risk

These guidelines aim to manage risks and ensure that employees do not work outside the remit of their responsibilities. It is essential that all staff follow the guidance set out in this policy and take all reasonable precautions to prevent or minimise accident, injury, loss or damage. It is of particular importance with regard to:

- Staff training
- The recording of activities as necessary
- Consent being obtained from parents/carers
- Any care plan being written with and signed by parents/carers
- The presence of two adults when procedures are being carried out and double signing the intimate care sheet (kept in the nappy changing area in a folder).