



Rawmarsh Ryecroft Infant School

Intimate Care Policy

Reviewed: June 2026

Next Review Due: June 2027

Rationale

At Rawmarsh Ryecroft Infant School we are here to support all children, ensuring they are safe and cared for at all times. It is anticipated that most children will be toilet trained on entry to our school, however we know that some children may need further support due to medical or developmental needs and endeavour to fully support parents/carers towards toileting provision and hygiene practice.

We see toileting as an essential self-care skill that children need to learn. This is done with the full support of staff in school. If there are problems with toilet training, we encourage parents / carers to discuss these with the Head teacher or SENDCO in school.

Where toileting problems are frequent, staff and parents/ carers will meet to discuss a plan and next steps. We also ask parents / carers to provide nappies (or pull-ups), wipes, nappy sacks and a change of clothes.

Intimate care can be defined as care tasks of an intimate nature, associated with bodily functions, body products and personal hygiene which demand direct or indirect contact with or exposure of the genitals. Examples include care associated with continence such as help with washing or cleaning.

Introduction

- All staff in school hold a DBS.
- All children who require intimate care are treated respectfully at all times; the child's welfare and dignity are of paramount importance.
- Children will be given a high level of privacy, choice and control will be provided to them. Children's dignity will be preserved at all times.
- As part of our PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education) we support pupils in their understanding of personal hygiene, bodily autonomy, privacy, dignity, health, and seeking help when needed. This work is shared with parents who are encouraged to reinforce the personal safety messages within the home.
- All staff responsible for the intimate care of children will undertake their duties in a professional manner at all times. We recognise that there is a need to treat all children with respect when intimate care is given.
- Staff who work with children who have special needs will realise that the issue of intimate care is a difficult one and will be respectful of children's needs.
- If a child needs support with regular toileting practices, parents/carers will be asked to provide the following; spare nappies / pull-ups, wipes, creams, nappy sacks and spare clothes including spare underwear.
- Appropriate records will be kept in our 'Intimate care books' and a copy passed to parents if a child has a toileting accident at school and requires changing and support. This is to ensure the safety of children and staff members.

Our Approach to best practice

- Staff are trained to provide intimate care (including Child Protection and Health and Safety training in moving and handling) and are fully aware of best practice. If a child needs special arrangements following assessment from physiotherapist/ occupational therapist the appropriate apparatus will be provided.
- Children will be supported to achieve the highest level of autonomy that is possible given their age and abilities. Staff will encourage each child to do as much for themselves as they can. This may mean, for example, giving the child responsibility for washing / cleaning themselves.
- Each child's right to privacy will be respected. Careful consideration will be given to each child's situation to determine how many members of staff might need to be present when a child needs help with intimate care. When felt appropriate, two members of staff may be present in line with best practice guidelines, to ensure the safety of both child and staff.
- If a member of staff has any concerns about physical changes in a child's presentation, e.g. marks, bruises, soreness etc. s/he will immediately report concerns to the DSL for child protection. A clear record of the concern will be reported on CPOMs and referred to social care if necessary. Parents will be asked for their consent or informed that a referral is necessary prior to it being made unless doing so is likely to place the child at greater risk of harm.
- If a child makes an allegation against a member of staff, all necessary procedures will be followed.
- Children will not be left alone to change by themselves. However, they will be encouraged to participate and help themselves as much as possible.
- Where clean clothes have not been provided by parents / carers, school will provide spare clothes.
- If it is felt the child's hygiene practices need to be done at home, school will ask the parent/carer to collect the child from school.

Dealing with body fluids

- Urine, faeces, blood and vomit will be cleaned up immediately and disposed of safely.
- When dealing with body fluids, staff wear protective clothing (disposal plastic gloves) and wash themselves thoroughly afterward.

- Soiled children's clothing will be bagged to go home - staff will not rinse or wash it. Children will be kept away from the affected area until the incident has been completely cleaned. Cleaning staff will be informed at the end of the day to carry out additional cleaning as needed.
- All staff maintain high standards of personal hygiene and will take all appropriate steps to prevent and control the spread of infection.