

Blanford Mere Primary School

Intimate Care Policy

This policy has been developed to inform staff and parents/carers of the procedures in place to support children who experience continence difficulties or toileting accidents while at school.

The policy applies to all children from Nursery through to Year 6.

Intimate care refers to any support involving toileting, cleaning a child following an accident, or changing personal items of clothing such as underwear.

The dignity, privacy and wellbeing of every child are of the utmost importance. While most children achieve continence before starting full-time school, some may experience ongoing or temporary difficulties due to medical conditions, medication, dietary needs or behavioural factors. Regardless of the cause, all children will be supported with sensitivity, respect and kindness.

The school will work in close partnership with parents and carers to ensure continence needs are addressed promptly to minimise discomfort, distress or embarrassment. High standards of hygiene will be maintained at all times, while encouraging independence and promoting self-esteem. All staff have a professional duty of care to the children they teach and support.

Children with an identified medical need will have a Personal Health Care Plan, which will include a Personalised Intimate Care Plan. This plan will outline the child's individual needs, how these will be managed on a daily basis, and who will be responsible. It will also clarify the roles of the school, parents/carers and the child in relation to toileting, cleaning and changing procedures.

These plans will be written in collaboration with parents/carers and the child where appropriate, by Mrs Crook and the Health Visitor/School Nurse.

Whenever possible, staff will check with the child whether they would prefer assistance from a member of staff or would rather wait for a parent/carer to attend, particularly if a change of clothing is required. Children will always be encouraged to develop independence appropriate to their age and ability, and supported to do as much for themselves as they are able.

Parents/carers may be asked to provide a change of clothing if suitable items are not immediately available in school, in order to minimise attention from other children. Children will be taken to the nearest accessible toilet for cleaning or changing. Emergency change packs are available in the School Office

and the Reception disabled toilet and include wet wipes, disposable gloves, polythene bags and spare underwear. In urgent situations, PE kits or clean uniform items from lost property may be used until replacement clothing is provided or laundered by the school.

A shower room is also available on site for parents/carers to use with their child, located near the main office.

Staff will follow the child's Individual Health Care Plan and adhere to the school's *Safeguarding Policy and Guidance for Safer Working Practices for Those Working with Children and Young People in Education Settings* (February 2022), particularly Section 15 relating to intimate care.

Although intimate care will be carried out by one member of staff, they must inform the child's class teacher or teaching assistant of where the child is being taken and the reason. A written record of all intimate and personal care tasks must be completed. Where care takes place in a separate room, the record should include the times the child left and returned.

Parents/carers should be informed of any incident, if they are not already aware, at the end of the school day. Soiled clothing should be handed to parents/carers discreetly within the classroom to avoid unnecessary embarrassment for the child.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Medical Needs Policy, Safeguarding Policy and SEND Policy.

Approved: January 2026

Review Date: January 2028, K. Crook, Headteacher/DSL