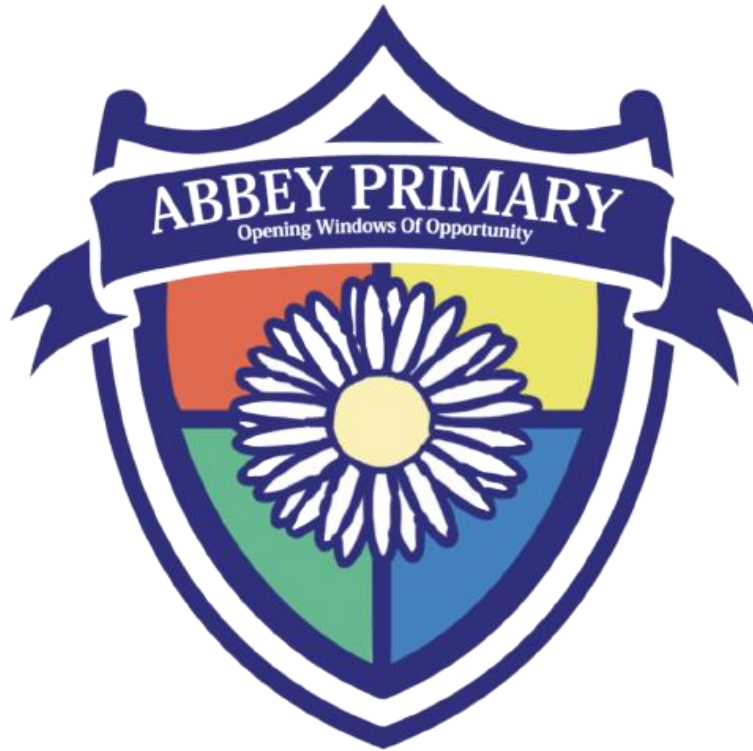


Abbey Primary School

Intimate Care Policy



Date written: October 2025

Review date: September 2028

Policy statement

All children at Abbey Primary School have the right to be treated with dignity, respect and privacy at all times so as to enable them to access all aspects of the curriculum.

This policy aims to manage risks associated with toileting and intimate care needs and ensures that staff do not work outside the remit of their responsibilities set out in this policy.

This policy sets out clear principles and guidelines on supporting intimate care with specific reference to toileting.

Toilet Training

Schools are not expected to toilet train pupils. Therefore, unless a child has a disability, as defined through legislation, it is expected that parents/carers will have trained their child to be clean and dry before they start in Nursery. Parents should be encouraged to train their child at home as part of their daily routine, and schools should reinforce these routines whilst avoiding any unnecessary physical contact.

Children with SEND needs may require help during the EYFS and beyond, with all or some aspects of personal care such as washing, dressing or toileting.

Staff will be mindful of and respect the personal dignity of the pupils when supervising, teaching or reinforcing toileting skills.

Intimate Care Tasks

This covers any tasks that involve dressing and undressing, washing including intimate parts, helping someone use the toilet, changing nappies/pull-ups or carrying out a procedure that requires direct or indirect contact to an intimate personal area.

Scope

This policy applies to all staff undertaking personal care tasks with children but particularly to those who are in the Early Years Foundation Stage. In addition to this there are other vulnerable groups of children and young people that may require support with personal care on either a short, longer term or permanent basis due to SEN and disability, medical needs or a temporary impairment.

Partnerships with Parents/Carers

Staff at Abbey Primary School work in partnership with parents/carers to provide care appropriate to the needs of the child. If necessary, an individual health care plan will be devised which details the needs of the child and the agreed procedures.

Things to discuss with parents:-

- Child's level of ability i.e. what tasks they are able to do by themselves
- Acknowledge and respect for any cultural or religious sensitivities related to aspects of intimate care.
- Be regularly monitored and reviewed in accordance with the child's development.

Parents/carers are asked to supply the following:

- Spare nappies/pull ups
- Wipes and nappy bags
- Spare clothes/underwear
- A changing mat

School will supply

- Personal Protective Equipment
- Bin and liners to dispose of waste.

Best Practice

When intimate care is given, the member of staff explains fully to the child each task that is carried out and the reason for it. Staff encourage children to do as much for themselves as they can, lots of praise and encouragement will be given to the child when they achieve. All staff working at Abbey Primary School must have a DBS check. Particular staff members will be responsible for giving intimate care for a child with known needs and will record their work with that child.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding DBS checks are rigorous and are carried out to ensure the safety of children with staff employed in schools and settings. Abbey Primary has a duty to ensure staff are not employed without a DBS check.

Staff should:

- always inform other colleagues about the contact(s) beforehand, assessing the need to have them present or close by
- make other staff aware of the task being undertaken

It is essential that the adult who is going to change the child informs the teacher and/or another member of staff that they are going to do this. There is no written legal requirement that two adults must be present. However, in order to completely secure against any risk of allegation, a second member of staff may be present where resources allow.

Health and Safety

The provider must promote the good health of children attending the setting and take necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection, and take appropriate action if children are ill or infectious.

- staff to wear fresh disposable aprons and gloves while changing a child
- changing area/ toilet to be left clean
- caretaking/ cleaning staff to be informed
- hot water and soap available to wash hands as soon as changing is done
- paper towels to be available to dry hands.

Facilities and resources

Wherever possible it is recommended that:

- mobile children are changed standing up
- immobile children may be changed on a mat on a suitable surface
- If facilities described above are not available, then children may be changed on a changing mat on the floor
- Children in year 1 and above should only be changed either in a toilet cubicle or standing up.

October 2025