

Intimate Care Policy

Langley Moor Nursery School



**Approved by:
Governing Body**

Date: 11th March 2024

Last reviewed on: November 2022

**Next review due
by: November
2026**

Langley Moor Nursery School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. We are committed to ensuring that all staff responsible for intimate care of children and young people will undertake their duties in a professional manner at all times.

- Intimate care is defined as any care which involves washing, touching or carrying out an invasive procedure that older children carry out for themselves, but which younger children often need help with.

- Intimate care tasks are associated with bodily functions, body products and personal hygiene that demand direct or indirect contact with, or exposure of the genitals. Examples include support with dressing and undressing (underwear), changing incontinence pads and nappies, helping someone use the toilet or washing intimate parts of the body. Disabled pupils may be unable to meet their own care needs for a variety of reasons and will require regular support.

- The Governing Body recognises its duties and responsibilities in relation to the Disability Discrimination Act which requires that any child with an impairment that affects his/her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities must not be discriminated against.

- We recognise that there is a need for children and young people to be treated with respect when intimate care is given. No child shall be attended to in a way that causes distress, embarrassment or pain. Staff will work in close partnership with parents and carers to share information and provide continuity of care.

- Many children will be toilet trained and out of nappies before they begin nursery. However it is inevitable that from time to time some children will have accidents and need to be attended to. Many younger pupils still require adult assistance for their personal and intimate care needs.

- In order to help the children to become aware of their bodily needs and respond to them in time, those who wish to go to the toilet are always allowed to go. The school undertakes to attempt any support or training programme requested by a child's GP and/or the school doctor or parent.

- Nursery staff have access to a bathroom area with toilets and hand basins with access to warm water. There is also a stock of baby wipes, plastic bags and disposable protective gloves for staff to use, which they must do. If a child soils him/herself during school time, one member of staff will help to child: To remove their soiled clothes Clean skin (this usually includes bottom, genitalia, legs, feet) Dress in the child's own clothes or those provided by the school. Wrap soiled clothes in plastic bags and give to parents to take home. At all times the member of staff pays attention to the level of distress and comfort of the child. If the child is ill the member of staff telephones the parent/carer. In the event a child is reluctant and refuses, the parent/carer will be contacted. Our intention is that the child will not be left in soiled clothing, and as soon as the member of staff responsible for him/her is aware of the situation, she/he will clean the child.

- It is intended that the child will not experience any negative disciplining, but only positive encouragement and praise for his/her endeavours to master this necessary skill. It is always our intention to avoid drawing attention to such events and positively to encourage the child in his/her efforts to gain these skills.

Our approach to best practice for intimate care needs over and above accidents.

The management of all children with intimate care needs will be carefully planned. Where specialist equipment and facilities above that currently available in the school are required, every effort will be made to provide appropriate facilities in a timely fashion, following assessment by a Physiotherapist and/or Occupational Therapist. Pupils will be supported to achieve the highest level of independence possible, according to their individual condition and abilities. Where possible one pupil will be cared for by one adult unless there is a sound reason for having more adults present. In such a case, the reasons will be documented. Intimate care arrangements will be discussed with parents/carers on a regular basis. The needs and wishes of children and parents will be taken into account wherever possible, within the constraints of staffing and equal opportunities legislation. Changing of children will be done discreetly either in the bathroom, or adjacent to the toilet area. This area is screened to the main room, but ensures that staff are within sight of other staff, to ensure the safeguarding of all children. Children are taught to respect the privacy of themselves and each other when using the toilet area. Staff are frank and open about attending to self care needs, for example talking a child through an effective method to clean their bottom. We convey to parents that learning these skills is just as important as learning other pre-school skills.

