

Eatock Early Years  
Foundation Stage  
Intimate Care and Toileting  
Policy



Reviewed January 2026

## **Rationale**

At Eatock Primary School, we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children. 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. We are committed to ensuring that all children are treated with sensitivity and respect.

This policy is in-line with the requirements of the revised **Early Years Foundation Stage statutory framework**, effective from September 2025 which states that:

Providers must ensure:

- There is an adequate number of toilets and hand basins available
- There are suitable hygienic changing facilities for changing any children
- Children's privacy is considered and balanced with safeguarding and support needs when changing nappies and toileting
- There is an adequate supply of clean bedding, towels, spare clothes, and any other necessary items.

## **Aims**

The aim of the policy is to:

- Recognise and identify situations which have elements of intimate or close personal contact
- Uphold pupils' rights to privacy and dignity
- Recognise the responsibilities of adults involved
- Safeguard pupils and adults from any misinterpretation of action
- Ensure consistency of action whilst being sensitive to individual need
- Understand how to dispose of waste in an appropriate manner

## **Intimate Care**

Intimate care is defined as any care which involves washing, touching or carrying out a procedure that most children and young people carry out for themselves, but which some are too young to or are unable to do. Intimate care tasks are associated with bodily functions, body products and personal hygiene that demands direct or indirect contact with, or contact with intimate personal areas. Examples include support with dressing and undressing, changing nappies or pull ups, helping someone to use the toilet, washing intimate parts of the body and cleaning a pupil who has soiled themselves.

## **Providing Support**

It is expected that the majority of children will be toilet trained and out of nappies before they begin at Eatock Nursery or Reception unless diagnosed with a need or a have a medical diagnosis. However, we recognise that children will join Eatock

Primary school having reached differing levels of independence and development in toileting and self-care. Therefore, it is inevitable that children will have accidents and need adult assistance to manage their personal and intimate care needs. In order to support children to become aware of their bodily needs and respond to them in time, those children who are showing awareness of wanting to go to the toilet are encouraged and supported.

Children in our Early Years setting have access to the toilet whenever they need to and are encouraged to be as independent as is age and developmentally appropriate. They are reminded at regular times to go to the toilet and are also encouraged to wash and dry their hands after using the toilet.

### **Role of practitioners**

All adults participating in activities requiring intimate/close personal contact will have undergone statutory DBS checks.

Staff have access to a bathroom area with a toilet and hand basin that has warm water. There is also a stock of baby wipes, plastic bags and disposable protective gloves for staff to use. If a child soils themselves, one member of staff within sight of another staff member, will help the child in the following manner:

- Remove their soiled clothes
- Clean skin (this usually includes bottom, genitalia, legs and feet)
- Support the child in dressing, using their spare clothes that are required to be kept in school
- Wrap soiled clothes in a plastic bag 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. Our intention is that the child will never be left in soiled clothing and as soon as a member of staff is aware of the situation, she/he will clean the child. It is intended that the child will receive positive encouragement and praise as they master this necessary skill. It is always our intention to avoid drawing attention to such events and to positively encourage the child in his/her efforts to gain these skills
- Parents/carers will be informed the same day if their child has needed help with meeting intimate care needs (e.g. has had an 'accident' and soiled him/herself).

### **Toileting and Changing**

1. Being aware that there is a need for privacy whilst being aware of the need to protect pupils from inappropriate touching
2. The need for privacy whilst being aware of the need to protect staff from allegations of inappropriate touching
3. Consistency of approach by all practitioners
4. Awareness of hygiene procedures
5. Awareness of disposal of waste procedures

6. Give sufficient time for children to achieve, to be aware of expectations, and be familiar with the type and frequency of prompts
7. Encourage as much independence as possible

### **Role of Parents and Carers**

A Consistent Approach will be taken to working with families to ensure that home and setting practices are aligned.

Where required, individual care plans will be put in place and agreed with families for any pupil requiring regular intimate care. It is expected that both school and parents/carers will work together with and follow the advice of external agencies such as Health Visitors in providing support for individual children.

Click on the link to access the toilet training guide  
<https://startingreception.co.uk/potty-training/>

The Potty Training Guide is also available to view on our website.

### **Review of Procedures and Protocols**

This policy will be reviewed in accordance with the review of all school policies or sooner if local or national directives impact upon it.

Written by Miss L Ormesher January 2026