

Intimate Care Policy



Approved by:	The Board of Governors	Date: 31 st of August 2025
Last reviewed on:	1 st September 2025	
Next review due by:	1 st August 2027	

At Eden Park Academy, we are committed to safeguarding the dignity, rights, and well-being of every child entrusted to our care. Intimate care is an integral part of creating a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment. While it is preferable that children are toilet-trained before joining our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), no child will be excluded due to personal care needs, such as wearing nappies or requiring additional support.

To facilitate this:

- **Support for Toilet Training:** We work collaboratively with parents to support toilet training unless medical or developmental reasons suggest otherwise.
- **Development of Self-Care Skills:** Intimate care provides an opportunity to teach self-care skills, fostering independence and self-esteem in a supportive and respectful environment.

This policy aligns with statutory guidance under the **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Framework** and adheres to the values and principles of **Eden Park Academy**, ensuring the safety and dignity of all children. It should be read in conjunction with:

- **Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy**
- **Staff Code of Conduct**
- **Whistle-Blowing Policy**
- **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy**
- **Administration of Medicines Policy**

Aims

Eden Park Academy's Intimate Care Policy aims to:

1. **Safeguard the Rights of Children:** Protect and promote the dignity, privacy, and well-being of every child.
2. **Ensure Positive Experiences:** Provide sensitive and respectful care, ensuring children experience intimate care in a way that builds their confidence.
3. **Support Staff and Parents:** Equip staff with clear procedures and reassure parents that children's needs are met safely and respectfully.
4. **Foster Collaboration:** Work in partnership with parents to ensure children's individual needs are met effectively.

Principles

- **Individualised Care:** Every child is treated as an individual with unique needs, respecting their preferences and cultural or religious values.
- **Encouragement of Independence:** Children are encouraged to manage their self-care wherever possible.

- **Maintaining Privacy and Dignity:** Staff will ensure privacy appropriate to the child's age, gender, and circumstances.
 - **Safeguarding Awareness:** Staff will adhere to safeguarding practices, ensuring a safe environment for both children and carers.
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Definition of Intimate Care

Intimate care includes any assistance with personal hygiene or other care that children typically manage independently as they grow. This may include:

- Assisting with dressing and undressing.
 - Supporting a child who has soiled themselves or is unwell.
 - Providing comfort for a distressed child.
 - Administering medical care or cleaning wounds.
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Responsibilities

Staff Responsibilities:

- Treat each child with dignity and sensitivity, ensuring privacy.
- Encourage children to be as independent as possible.
- Follow safeguarding procedures and maintain professional boundaries.
- Wear disposable gloves and adhere to hygiene protocols during intimate care procedures.
- Inform a colleague when assisting a child with intimate care.

Parent Responsibilities:

- Inform the school of any medical or developmental needs that may affect a child's care requirements.
 - Provide necessary items, such as nappies, wipes, or spare clothing, if needed.
 - Collaborate with the school on toilet training or other care needs.
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Procedures for Intimate Care

1. Preparation:

- Inform a colleague before attending to a child's care needs.
- Gather necessary items (gloves, wipes, spare clothing, etc.) before starting.

2. During Care:

- Explain the procedure to the child to ensure they feel safe and reassured.
- Encourage the child to participate in their care as much as possible.
- Maintain appropriate physical contact and avoid unnecessary exposure.

3. Post-Care:

- Dispose of waste materials hygienically (e.g., double-bagging soiled items).

- Wash hands thoroughly and clean any equipment or surfaces used.
 - Record the incident and inform parents the same day, preferably in person or via a phone call.
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Safeguarding Considerations

To safeguard both children and staff:

- Staff should work in pairs where possible or ensure another adult is informed.
 - Staff must follow the **Staff Code of Conduct** and safer working practices.
 - Volunteers and students are not permitted to carry out intimate care.
 - Any concerns about a child's welfare must be reported following the **Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy**.
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Hygiene Protocols

- Staff must wear disposable gloves and aprons during intimate care.
 - Facilities and equipment must be cleaned after each use.
 - Handwashing facilities must be readily available for staff and children.
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Cultural and Religious Sensitivity

The religious and cultural values of families will be respected. Where specific practices or requirements exist, these should be communicated to the school, and appropriate arrangements will be made.

Training and Support

Staff involved in intimate care will receive regular training to:

- Understand the developmental needs of children.
 - Recognise and respond to safeguarding concerns.
 - Implement hygiene protocols effectively.
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Monitoring and Review

The implementation of this policy will be reviewed every three years or earlier if necessary. Feedback from staff, parents, and children will inform any amendments.

Conclusion

Eden Park Academy is committed to providing safe, respectful, and inclusive care that promotes the dignity and well-being of all children. Through collaboration with parents and adherence to safeguarding best practices, we ensure that children's personal and developmental needs are met in a nurturing environment.