



# The Children's House

## Intimate Care Policy

This policy should be reviewed every two years and as required by legislation.		
Action	Reviewer	Date
Review	AS/TH	Nov 2025
Approved by Chair of COM	JT	Nov 2025
Date for next internal review		Nov 2027

### INTIMATE CARE POLICY

From time to time, the children in our care will need help with toileting or washing. Provision of intimate care may involve moving, lifting or handling a child. It is of paramount importance that children's dignity and privacy are preserved at all times. Only full-time teaching staff will be involved in children's intimate care. Teaching staff are trained in child protection and health and safety issues and will follow guidelines at all times. Teaching staff will undertake to treat all children with great respect when caring for their intimate needs.

#### At the Early Years Site:

At our school, we appreciate that children develop at their own pace. While we generally encourage potty training around 18-36 months, we understand that some children may still be learning when they join us, wearing pull-ups. Our policy doesn't involve nappy changes, but we're committed to supporting independence. After settling in, we'll work with parents and caregivers to encourage toilet/potty use and handwashing. We value each child's unique journey and are open to discussing individual needs. Parents are requested to leave an extra set of home clothes/pull-ups in a shoe-bag on their child's peg so that we can change the child into a clean set of clothes if needed. Children feel more comfortable in their own home clothes, but if none are available, we keep 'spares' and will use these instead, remaining sensitive to the feelings of the child by offering choice wherever possible.

One child will be cared for by one adult, unless there is a unique circumstance for two adults to be present. The child will NOT be changed in a completely private area. The door to a changing area must be left open.

Staff will not take children to a toilet cubicle that is out of sight of other staff. If children are on an outing where the toilet cubicles are out of sight, one member of staff will care for the child and a second member of staff will be within sight.

#### At the Prep School:

The same regard for children's feelings and privacy will apply. The school has spare supplies of uniform and underwear should a child require changing.



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**Children with special needs or disabilities:**

Sometimes a child may require regular help with using the toilet and handwashing. The Early Years Site/Prep School will make reasonable adjustments to enable this according to the needs of the individual child. This should be part of a formally agreed plan in which an appointed person/s will be responsible for providing this care. This plan will be agreed with parents and regularly reviewed in line with the child's developing continence. The child's own views must be actively included in this process. Always explain to the child what is happening and follow the guidelines given by the SENCO and other agencies involved with the child.

Both the Early Years Site and Prep School have adapted toilets for children with physical disabilities. If a child requires special arrangements, staff will receive training to enable them, where appropriate, to adapt their practice to the needs of the individual child.

This Policy was reviewed and amended in November 2025 and approved by the Council of Management.

Signed: \_\_\_Joanna Thorton \_\_\_Council of Management