



Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Primary School

EYFS Dignity, Safeguarding and Care Statement



At Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Primary School, we believe that every child has the right to receive intimate care in a safe, respectful and nurturing environment where their dignity, wellbeing and individuality are always protected. We recognise that toileting, personal hygiene and intimate care are an important part of children's physical, emotional and social development and provide valuable opportunities to promote independence, confidence and self-esteem.

Our practice is underpinned by the principles of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework, which requires practitioners to promote children's good health, manage their personal needs appropriately and ensure that safeguarding and welfare requirements are met at all times. We also work in accordance with the Department for Education's *Keeping Children Safe in Education* guidance, ensuring that all intimate care is delivered with the child's welfare as the paramount consideration.

We are committed to ensuring that every child:

- is treated with dignity, compassion and respect throughout every aspect of intimate care;
- is supported by trusted, trained members of staff who understand their safeguarding responsibilities;
- is encouraged to participate in their own personal care and develop independence appropriate to their age, stage of development and individual needs;
- is listened to, reassured and involved in decisions about their care wherever possible through age-appropriate communication;
- has their privacy protected whilst ensuring that care is provided in an open and transparent manner that safeguards both the child and the adult.

Our staff understand that intimate care is never simply a routine task. It is an opportunity to build trusting relationships, model respectful interactions and promote children's emotional wellbeing. We explain what we are doing before providing support, seek the child's cooperation wherever possible and encourage children to complete any aspects of their personal care that they are able to manage independently. We never use language or actions that could cause embarrassment, shame or anxiety, recognising that toileting accidents are a normal part of early childhood development.



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Where children require ongoing support with toileting or intimate care, we work closely with parents, carers and, where appropriate, health professionals to develop an individual care plan that reflects the child's needs, promotes consistency between home and school and supports increasing independence over time. Parents are valued as partners, and open communication ensures that children receive consistent, respectful care.

Safeguarding is central to all intimate care procedures. Staff maintain appropriate professional boundaries, follow agreed school procedures, use designated changing areas and adhere to infection prevention and control measures. Any concerns regarding a child's physical presentation, emotional wellbeing or behaviour during intimate care are reported immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead in accordance with the school's safeguarding procedures.

Through compassionate practice, clear routines and positive relationships, we aim to ensure that every child feels safe, valued and respected while developing the confidence and independence needed to manage their own personal care as they grow.

Our EYFS Intimate Care Promise

Every child will be:

- Safe.
- Respected.
- Listened to.
- Supported with kindness.
- Encouraged to become independent.
- Cared for in partnership with their family.
- Protected through robust safeguarding practice.
- Valued as a unique child, consistent with the principles of the EYFS.



EYFS Staff Guidance: Nappy Changing and Intimate Care Procedure

Please ensure your fully adhere to our Intimate Care Policy: [Intimate Care Policy Spring 2026.docx](#)

Purpose

This procedure ensures that all intimate care is carried out safely, respectfully and consistently, promoting children's dignity, wellbeing and independence while safeguarding both children and staff.

Before Changing

1. **Respond promptly and discreetly** when a child requires a nappy change or intimate care.
 - Reassure the child throughout.
 - Encourage the child to participate where appropriate.
3. **Inform a second member of staff** that intimate care is about to take place.
 - The second member of staff will act as a safeguarding witness and remain nearby throughout the procedure.
 - They should be available immediately if assistance is required.
4. **Prepare the changing area**
 - Gather all required equipment before beginning:
 - PPE
 - Nappy



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- Wipes
- Nappy sacks
- Spare clothing (if required)
- Cleaning materials

5. **Display the “Intimate Care in Progress – Please Knock” sign** on the outside of the changing room door and to preserve the dignity of the child.

6. **Close the door** to maintain the child’s privacy.

7. **During the Change**

- Wash or sanitise hands before putting on PPE.
- Continue talking to the child in a calm and reassuring manner.
- Encourage the child to:
 - remove clothing where able;
 - assist with the change if developmentally appropriate;
 - begin developing independent toileting skills.

8. **Maintain the child’s dignity by:**

- exposing only the area that requires cleaning;
- never leaving the child unattended;
- ensuring respectful language is used at all times.
- Clean the child thoroughly from front to back using wipes.



- Apply creams only where: parental consent has been obtained; and this forms part of the child's agreed care plan.
- Fit a clean nappy securely.
- Assist the child into clean clothing where necessary.

9. Following the Change

- Encourage and support the child to:
 - flush the toilet where appropriate;
 - wash and dry their hands thoroughly.
- Remove PPE safely.
- Dispose of waste in accordance with the school's infection control procedures.
- Clean and disinfect the changing mat and surrounding area.
- Wash hands thoroughly.
- Remove the "Intimate Care in Progress" sign.
- Return the child to their learning feeling comfortable, reassured and valued.

Recording

The member of staff providing intimate care will complete the Intimate Care Record, recording:

- Date
- Time
- Child's name
- Staff member providing care



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- Witnessing staff member
- Staff signature

Safeguarding

Staff must immediately report any:

- unexplained bruises or injuries;
- marks, rashes or soreness not previously known;
- concerning comments or disclosures made by the child;
- significant changes in behaviour or emotional presentation.

These concerns must be reported immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead in accordance with the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

Promoting Dignity and Independence

Throughout every intimate care interaction, staff will:

- preserve the child's privacy;
- treat every child with kindness and respect;
- reassure the child at every stage;
- never rush or shame a child;
- encourage independence appropriate to the child's age and stage of development;
- recognise that toileting accidents are a normal part of child development;
- work in partnership with parents and carers to support continence and self-care skills.

Our EYFS Promise



Every child will leave an intimate care interaction feeling:

- Safe
- Clean
- Comfortable
- Respected
- Listened to
- Valued
- Increasingly independent

Intimate Care Register Log

Please remember: Safeguarding, Dignity & Care

Date	Name of child	Name of staff member changing	Time	Nappy reason	Second staff member present

