

SHIREMOOR PRIMARY SCHOOL INTIMATE CARE POLICY



The NSPCC states:

Intimate care is a term used to describe activities involved in meeting the personal care needs of a child. It includes providing care which requires direct or indirect contact with, or exposure of, private parts of the body, such as:

- Changing nappies, underwear, continence pads or sanitary wear
- Helping a child use the toilet
- Bathing, showering or washing
- Providing some forms of specialist medical care (such as inserting suppositories or pessaries)

It can also involve other forms of physical care, sometimes referred to as 'personal care', including:

- Feeding
- Changing outer layers of clothing
- Applying or administering external or oral medication
- Hair care
- Washing non-intimate body parts
- Prompting children to go to the toilet

Who needs intimate care?

Children of any age might need intimate care either occasionally or on a regular basis. The type and level of care a child needs depends on a number of factors, including: age; stage of development; and whether the child has any disabilities, special educational or additional needs, or medical conditions.

The EYFS Framework 2026 states:

3.88 Providers must ensure:

- There is an adequate number of toilets and hand basins available - there should usually be separate toilet facilities for adults.
- There are suitable hygienic changing facilities for changing any children who are in nappies.
- 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.

Our expectations

Parents/carers are expected to support their child in developing appropriate independence with toileting and personal hygiene before starting at the setting and throughout their time here.

Children should, wherever developmentally and medically appropriate, be able to:

- recognise when they need to use the toilet;
- access and use the toilet;
- manage their clothing;
- wipe themselves following toileting;
- wash and dry their hands;
- tell an adult if they have an accident or need help.

Accidents

We understand that occasional toileting accidents happen and these will always be dealt with calmly, sensitively and without embarrassment or criticism.

Where necessary, staff may provide **limited assistance** to preserve a child's dignity. Children will be encouraged to clean and change themselves wherever they are able to do so.

Where a child has significantly soiled themselves, is unable to clean or change independently, or requires care beyond what our facilities and staffing arrangements reasonably allow, **parents/carers may be contacted and expected to attend the setting to provide the necessary care.**

Parents/carers should ensure that children have appropriate spare clothing available where accidents are reasonably foreseeable.

Nappies and ongoing intimate care

Where a child is still in nappies or requires regular assistance with toileting or personal care, parents/carers should discuss this with school during transition visits or as soon as the need arises. There are private changing facilities in Nursery and nappy changes are recorded as part of the child's care routine.

Where a child has a disability, medical condition or additional need affecting their ability to manage personal care independently, we will discuss their individual needs with parents/carers and consider appropriate support and any reasonable adjustments required with our SENCO.

Privacy and dignity

All children will be treated with dignity, respect and sensitivity when receiving personal care. Staff will provide appropriate privacy while balancing this with the child's safety and support needs, in line with the EYFS statutory requirements.

Parents/carers are encouraged to work in partnership with the setting to develop their child's independence and to seek appropriate professional advice where persistent toileting or continence difficulties occur.

Medical and SEND Needs

The school recognises that some children may require additional intimate care because of:

- disability;
- developmental needs;
- medical conditions;
- continence difficulties;
- physical needs;
- SEND.

Such needs will be considered individually.

The school will work with parents/carers and appropriate professionals to determine what reasonable support can be provided.

Where necessary, an **Individual Intimate Care Plan**, healthcare plan or other appropriate plan will be agreed.

The school will consider its duties under the Equality Act 2010 and the SEND framework when determining appropriate arrangements.

This policy should be read alongside the setting's **Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, SEND Policy, Health and Safety Policy and relevant medical/infection-control procedures.**

Link to NSPCC:

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-health-development/intimate-care>

Other legislation:

Early years foundation stage statutory framework