

Intimate Care and Nappy Changing Policy

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Policy Statement

At The Square Nursery School, we believe all children have the right to be safe, respected, and supported in their personal care needs. We do not exclude any child from our provision because of toileting needs. We work in partnership with parents to support toilet training, unless there are medical or developmental reasons that make this inappropriate.

We recognise that intimate care routines — such as nappy changing, toileting, changing clothes, and providing first aid — involve children at their most vulnerable. We therefore carry out all routines in a safe, hygienic, respectful, and professional way that promotes children's dignity and independence.

Procedures

General Principles

- All intimate care is carried out by the child's key person, or a familiar staff member, whenever possible.
- Staff maintain children's privacy and dignity, leaving doors ajar for safeguarding but ensuring children are not exposed unnecessarily.
- Staff wear disposable gloves and clean the changing area before and after use with disinfectant.
- Nappies, wipes, creams (if provided) and spare clothes are kept in each child's named storage area.
- Soiled nappies and pull-ups are disposed of hygienically; soiled clothes are bagged and returned to parents.

Respectful Care

- Children are treated with gentleness and respect; staff do not make negative comments about nappies, smells, toileting, or a child's body.
- Nappy changing and toileting are used as opportunities to promote independence, e.g. washing hands, pulling up clothes, flushing toilets.

- Older children are encouraged and supported to use the toilet independently.

Safeguarding and Professional Boundaries

- Staff never use personal mobile phones during intimate care routines.
- All staff have enhanced DBS checks and receive safeguarding and intimate care training.
- Intimate care is never used for play, punishment, or favouritism. Staff avoid over-physical or inappropriate behaviours (e.g. tickling, unnecessary contact).
- Any concerns about practice must be reported to the manager immediately, following the Whistleblowing Policy if necessary.

Working with Parents

- Parents are consulted about their child's care needs and preferences, and these are respected wherever possible.
- Any specialist medical or toileting needs are planned with parents and supported through appropriate training for staff.

Monitoring and Review

- Management regularly observes practice and carries out risk assessments on intimate care routines.
- Any lapse in professional standards is addressed through supervision and disciplinary procedures if required.
- This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if guidance changes.

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
<i>14th September 2025</i>	Zoey Gordon	<i>September 2026</i>

This policy has been read and understood by the following staff members:

