



Mapplewell Intimate Care Policy

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1	Original	September 2022
2	Reviewed and Rebranded	February 2026

Mapplewell Intimate Care Policy

1. Rationale

It is our intention to develop independence in each child, however there will be occasions when help is required. In line with the [Equality Act 2010](#) schools must not discriminate against or disadvantage disabled children or those with special educational needs. A delay in achieving continence – or not being toilet trained – can be considered a disability. It is therefore not acceptable for a school to refuse admission to pupils who have not yet mastered potty training or are still in nappies. At Mapplewell Primary School staff will work with parents/carers to support these pupils to achieve continence within the school environment so they can play an active role in school life, remain healthy and achieve their academic potential. [The Children and Families Act 2014](#) places a statutory duty on schools to support pupils with medical conditions, including bladder and bowel problems. At Mapplewell Primary School staff will consult health and social care professionals, pupils and parents/carers to ensure the needs of pupils that are not toilet trained are effectively supported and have an individual care plan where necessary.

Intimate care may be defined as any activity that is required to meet the personal needs of an individual child on a regular basis or during a one off incident. Such activities can include:

- changing clothes
- toileting
- first aid and medical assistance
- supervision of a child involved in intimate self-care

All incidents are logged in our Intimate Care Log on the schools Child Protection Online Management Service (CPOMs). Parents/carers have a responsibility to advise the school of any known intimate care needs relating to their child.

Mapplewell Primary School is committed to ensuring that all staff responsible for the intimate care of pupils will undertake their duties in a professional manner at all times.

2. The Protection of Children

The School's Child Protection Policy will be followed at all times. All pupils will be taught personal safety skills carefully matched to their level of development and understanding.

If a member of staff has any concerns about physical changes in a pupil's presentation, e.g. marks, bruises, soreness etc. they will immediately report concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

If a pupil makes an allegation against a member of staff, all necessary procedures will be followed.

3. Toileting Procedures

Pupils will not be refused access to the toilet during lesson times. Some pupils will have bladder conditions which mean they need to go urgently and frequently, others will have bowel conditions like constipation. If they are afraid to ask to go to the toilet, this may make their continence problem worse and reduce their ability to manage or overcome it. For younger pupils it may negatively affect their ability to learn to use the toilet. At break and lunchtimes pupils needing the toilet will be given a toilet card to allow them to access the building and allow staff to ensure pupils are supervised at all times.

Staff who help with intimate care should make sure another member of staff is aware they are going to change a child and is in the vicinity and visible or audible. There is no legal requirement for two members of staff to be

present. [Guidance for safer working practice for those working with children and young people in education settings](#) states that, 'intimate or personal care procedures should not involve more than one member of staff unless the pupil's care plan specifies the reason for this. Pupils have the right to safety and privacy when receiving intimate care.

Wherever possible staff should supervise the pupil in self-care, e.g. encouraging them to clean themselves and change their own clothing with support and direction appropriate to the pupil's age and ability. Staff should wear a plastic apron and gloves when dealing with a pupil who is bleeding or soiled. Any soiled waste will then be disposed of in the appropriate bag and bin specifically designated for the disposal of such waste.

4. Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Pupils with special needs have the same rights to safety and privacy when receiving intimate care. As with all on-going arrangements for intimate care needs, agreements between the pupil, parents/carers and the school should be recorded on a Care Plan and logged in the usual way.

5. Physical Contact

All staff engaged in the care and education of pupils need to exercise caution in the use of physical contact. Staff should be aware that even well intentional physical contact might be misconstrued directly by the pupil, an observer or by anyone the action is described to. Staff must therefore always be prepared to justify actions and accept that all physical contact be open to scrutiny.

6. Pupils in Distress

There may be occasions when a distressed pupil needs comfort and reassurance that may include physical touch such as a caring parent or carer would give. Staff must remain self-aware at all times to ensure that their contact is not threatening or intrusive and not subject to misinterpretation.

7. Further Information

Equality Act , 2010

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/equality-act-2010-guidance>

Children and Families Act 2014

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/6/contents/enacted>

Guidance for safer working practise for those working with children and young people in education settings, 2015

<http://www.saferrecruitmentconsortium.org/GSWP%20Oct%202015.pdf>

The Children's Bowel and Bladder Charity

<https://www.eric.org.uk/>