

LONDON STEINER SCHOOL

London Steiner School

Kindergarten Intimate Care Policy

Legislation and Guidance

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE IN EDUCATION 2021

[Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021](#)

WORKING TOGETHER TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN 2018

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>

LAMBETH SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP

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

NSPCC

www.nspcc.org.uk

About Intimate Care

Intimate care can take substantial amounts of time but should be an enjoyable experience for the child and for their parents. It is essential that every child is treated as an individual and that care is given as gently and as sensitively as possible.

Whilst children would ideally be already potty trained when admitted to the London Steiner School Kindergarten, if they are not potty trained, we understand that there will be accidents and occasions where children just may need some help from staff. This policy is to ensure the safety of the children and staff of the school. We are taking into account the Safeguarding aspect of intimate care and the promotion of a child's independence. Children should be treated with dignity and respect and given privacy appropriate to the child's age and situation. The child should be encouraged to express choice and to have a positive image of their body. Confident, self-assured children who feel their body belongs to them are less vulnerable to sexual abuse.

We do have spare nappies and wipes in the event of an 'emergency'; however, we endeavour to promote the child's independence by supporting only when requested or when absolutely necessary, and will use our professional judgement to ascertain how much to assist them. This means perhaps giving verbal instructions and encouragement to a child as opposed to just 'doing it for them'. However, we will be aware of each child's individual needs and will never cause distress by have one rule for everyone, e.g. 'You HAVE to do it yourself'. We take into account those with additional needs and will individualise our approach based on each child.

Each member of staff is responsible for Safeguarding and is aware of the importance of modelling respectful, healthy behaviour for the children in our care. When the child needs to go to the toilet and is of an ability where they can manage intimate care tasks alone, we either close the door for them or turn our backs, informing them

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that we will do so to ensure their privacy. We only help to wipe when a child defecates, upon request. To wipe their genitals, we show them the motions and give them the paper.

This is to entrench the idea that genitals in particular are for themselves, alone. We do not use the idea that they are for you, your mummy and daddy (or guardian). This is to avoid confusion in potential child protection matters. When they need assistance to pull down trousers, pants, skirts, dresses or tights, we ask 'may I pull your ____ down now?' and wait for a response. If the child is averse to it, then we do not continue. We pull down clothing at the appropriate touch points of either hip, and pull up in the same manner. We inform them at every point of what we need to do next, i.e. 'I will take some loo paper and wipe your bottom now, is that ok?'. A member of staff will never be in the cubicle on their own, with a child, with the door closed. When supporting a child with intimate care tasks, each member of staff in the room will be informed.

Staff also need to be aware that some adults may use intimate care, as an opportunity to abuse children. It is important to bear in mind that some care tasks / treatments can be open to misinterpretation. Adhering to the settings policy and procedure guidelines should safeguard children and practitioners.

Intimate Care Tasks

This covers any tasks that involve the dressing and undressing, washing including intimate parts, helping someone use the toilet, changing nappies or carrying out a procedure that requires direct or indirect contact to an intimate personal area.

Procedures For Children That Are Toileting or Being Trained to Use the Toilet

- At London Steiner School we will maintain each child's privacy.
- All staff are familiar with the hygiene procedures and carry these out when toileting children.
- During toileting staff will interact with the child, and if upset will reassure and comfort them. They will soothe them verbally throughout the experience.
- Children will be shown the toilet areas before they actually need to use them, to help promote confidence and familiarity in a new environment.
- On occasions a potty will be used for children that find it difficult to use the toilet or those who feel more confident using a potty.
- All children will be encouraged to adopt good personal hygiene by washing their hands properly using soap provided or on occasion special soap will be provided by parents if their child has sensitive skin or allergies.
- Staff will wash their hands with hot, soapy water and dry on disposable towels immediately after completing task. By emulating the staff, the children adopt good personal hygiene quickly, albeit with gentle reminders where necessary.
- Only staff members with DBS Enhanced Disclosure clearance will undertake toileting duties.
- The child will always be asked for their permission to be helped, especially if the help involves a staff member carrying out a procedure that requires direct or indirect contact to an intimate personal area. A suitable member of staff will be found if the child wants to choose.
- It is suggested to parents to send a bag containing a clean change of clothes for their child in case of accidents. These clothes will only be used for that child. If these have not been provided, we will use the London Steiner School spare clothes.

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If a staff member has concerns about a colleague's intimate care practice, they must report this following the settings whistleblowing policy. If you observe any unusual markings, discolourations or swelling, including the genital area, report immediately following your settings policy and procedures. If during the intimate care of a child you accidentally hurt them, misunderstand or misinterpret something, reassure the child, ensure their safety and report the incident immediately following your settings policy and procedures.

Report and record any unusual emotional or behavioural response by the child. A written record of concerns must be made and kept in the child's personal file. The normal process of changing a nappy or supporting toileting should not raise child protection concerns, and there are no regulations that indicate that a second member of staff must be available to supervise the nappy changing process to ensure that abuse does not take place. However, in some instances it may be appropriate for two members of staff to change/support a child, e.g. if a child gets very distressed or has made an allegation previously.

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