

Willow Nursery School

Continence Policy

Promoting Personal Development - Continence

Achieving continence is one of the many developmental milestones usually reached within the context of learning before a child transfers to nursery. However we acknowledge that there may be children with longer term continence issues for whom an individual health care plan may need to be put in place. In addition there may be children joining us in school who are at various points of developing their independence in toileting who may well need short term support in this important area of self care.

No child will be refused a place in school in relation to continence issues and in house documentation for parents will openly acknowledge this.

Willow Nursery School is committed wholeheartedly to working with children, parents and any support agencies deemed necessary to ensure appropriate provision is made for all children with needs in this specific area of personal development and in so doing fulfil a commitment to the promotion of our inclusive school ethos .

We accept our responsibility to meet the needs of children with delayed personal development in the same way we aim to meet the needs of children with delayed language or any other kind of delayed development. We aim to make reasonable adjustments to meet the needs of each child.

At Willow Nursery School, we expect that all children will come to school wearing underwear rather than pull-ups or nappies. Where this is not the case, staff and parents will meet to draw up a continence plan. Also, if any other children require regular changing, staff will meet with parents to discuss the issue and, where necessary, will draw up a continence plan.

Health and Safety

The bathroom area in each of Rooms 1,2,3 are appropriate areas for the changing of children. Each child should have a bag on their peg with a spare set of clothes, carrier bag, nappy sacks and wipes. If a child accidentally wets or soils him/herself they will be attended to in one of these areas.

Staff involved in this procedure will be expected to wear disposable gloves.

Wet or soiled clothes will be wrapped in a nappy sack and placed in the child's bag, for disposal by the parents. Gloves and any items used for cleaning the changing area will be disposed of in the normal domestic waste.

Hot water and liquid soap will be available to wash hands as soon as the task is complete. A hand dryer or paper towels will be available for drying hands.

Safeguarding

We have no anticipation that the changing of a child either in pull-ups or otherwise should raise any issues of safeguarding as all staff have been DBS checked. Therefore it will be normal practice for only one adult to be involved in attending to a child's personal needs. The person attending to a child will always be a member of the school staff and will always alert another member of staff that they are changing a child. Students on placement will not be involved in supporting children in this area of care.

At all times staff will be encouraged to remain highly vigilant for any signs or symptoms of improper practice, as they do for all activities within school.

If any marks or injuries are noticed on a child during changing this should be immediately referred to the designated safeguarding lead to follow up.

Agreeing a procedure for personal care

Parents will be kept fully informed of the procedures the school will follow should their child need changing during school time. This information will be shared before the child starts at Nursery. A copy of the school policy is available on request.

Guidelines for staff involved in the process as detailed below will be visibly displayed in all designated changing areas. This will ensure they follow the correct procedure.

- If at all possible children should be changed standing up.
- The child's skin should be cleaned with a disposable wipe.
- Disposable gloves should be worn when changing children.
- Any soiled or damp clothing should be placed in a plastic carrier bag and placed on the child's peg or in their bag.
- Gloves and any items used for cleaning the changing area will be disposed of
- Hands should be thoroughly washed afterwards.

- A copy of the continence plan will be kept in the child's folder, with a Changing Chart. The Changing Chart should be completed each time the child is changed.

Should a child with particularly complex needs be admitted the school will work closely with the health care professionals involved in any forward planning activity.

Resources

It is appreciated that changing a child may take up to ten minutes, maybe longer in certain circumstances. In the school context of the nursery changing will be undertaken by employed members of staff (DBS cleared). Students will not change children.

Where a child has a longer term need, the school's leadership team will ensure that additional resources are allocated to that area of school to enable the children's individual needs to be met.

Keys to success

A successful transition to independence in this area of self care is more likely to be achieved when we, as practitioners work closely with parents with a positive approach to supporting the child in this aspect of their development.

We will not assume that the child has failed to achieve full continence because this has not been attempted in the home. However, where this is the case we will have a positive and structured approach developed, in partnership with parents and carers, to ensure a successful outcome for a child.

If there is further concern that delayed continence may be linked with delays in other aspects of the child's development this will be sensitively discussed with parents and carers and a specifically planned programme be jointly developed and agreed.

There are other professionals who can help with advice and support. The Family Health Visitor should have knowledge of who can be contacted to offer support and advice in this area. Health care professionals can also carry out a full health assessment in order to rule out any medical cause of continence problems.

Partnership Working

In order to achieve a clear understanding of the shared responsibilities of both parents and school it may be appropriate to set up a mutual agreement which will define each other's expectations.

This kind of agreement should help to avoid misunderstandings that might otherwise arise and help parents feel confident that the school is taking an holistic view of the child's needs.

If this is deemed necessary issues discussed and agreed may cover the following areas.

The parent:

- Providing the school/setting with spare clothes, wipes, nappy sack and carrier bag
- Understanding and agreeing the procedures that will be followed when their child is changed at school
- Agreeing to inform the school should the child have any marks/rash
- Agreeing to review arrangements should this be necessary

The School/setting:

- Agreeing to change the child during a single session should the child soil themselves or become uncomfortably wet
- Agreeing to monitor the number of times the child is changed in order to identify progress made
- Agreeing to discuss any marks or rashes seen
- Agreeing to review arrangements

Monitoring and Review

The member of staff responsible for this policy is Miss Clair Howe.

Policy reviewed: Spring 2024

Next review: Spring 2026

Guidelines for staff involved in changing children.

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- Disposable gloves should be worn when changing children.
- Any soiled or damp clothing should be placed in a plastic carrier bag and placed on the child's peg or in their bag.
- Gloves and any items used for cleaning the changing area will be disposed of
- Hands should be thoroughly washed afterwards.

- A copy of the continence plan will be kept in the child's folder, with a Changing Chart. The Changing Chart should be completed each time the child is changed.

(Displayed in each changing area)

Care Plan

Name of Child _____

School

- We agree to change your child during a session should they soil or become uncomfortably wet (once per am session and once per pm session).
- We agree to work with you with appropriate toilet training arrangements.
- We agree to discuss any marks or rashes seen

Parents

- We agree to take our child to the toilet at the latest possible time before being brought to school
- We agree to provide spare nappies/underwear, changes of clothes, wipes, nappy sacks and any prescribed creams
- We agree to inform the school if our child has any marks/rashes
- We agree to discuss any issues with our child's keyworker
- We agree to a 'minimum change' policy i.e. the school will not change the child more frequently than if they were at home

Signed:

School _____ Date: _____

Parent: _____ Date: _____

Review Date:

