



# ***Early Years Toilet Training Policy***

## **Policy Information**

<b>Date of last review:</b>	January 2026	<b>Review period:</b>	2 years
<b>Date ratified by Local Governors:</b>		<b>Policy owner:</b>	EY Lead

## **Reviews/revisions**

<b>Review date</b>	<b>Changes made</b>	<b>By whom</b>
January 2028		

## **Aims**

At Princefield Early Years, we aim to support parents through the toilet training process and beyond.

We aim to offer support to parents about toilet training at home, recognising 'toilet ready' signs. These include showing interest in toilets and toileting, having dry nappies for at least 2 hours, showing understanding through verbal and non-verbal communication that they are toileting, asking for a nappy to be changed or showing discomfort, showing visible signs of needing the toilet (eg fidgeting), saying they need to use the toilet in advance.

While most children attending our Nursery are toilet trained by age 3, we understand that toileting is not age dependent but linked to children's physical and psychological readiness and that some children in our Nursery may need support within our Early Years setting with toilet training.

Most children should be toilet trained before starting the Reception year. However we recognise that some children may have a diagnosed medical or SEND need that means that they need support with toilet training during their Reception year or later.

This policy is linked to our policy on intimate and personal care.

## **Skills children need to use the toilet independently**

For children to be able to go to the toilet completely on their own, they need to be able to;

- pull their underwear down and up
- pull their trousers/skirt/dress up and down
- sit on the toilet
- wipe themselves
- flush the toilet
- wash their hands

Our PSED curriculum and life skills support learning these skills.

We use child sized toilets for toilet training and depending on need and in liaison with parents may use a potty to ensure a consistent approach, before moving onto using the toilets in school. Potties will be provided by parents/carers.

Parents will provide all nappies and wipes while their child is using them.

## **Working in Partnership with Parents**

At Princefield we recognise the importance of working closely with parents, carers and specialists to give children consistent messages about toilet training.

Staff will help parents and carers understand the importance of toilet training in the early years, in particular in Nursery. This will help children in our Nursery, get ready for the transition to school.

## **Procedure for toilet training**

In discussion with parents, we will plan to have at least a week at home where their child is confident asking for and using the toilet, before they come to our setting in pants. In most cases we will work with parents to ensure this is over a school holiday.

We will follow the routines for toilet training set out at home to promote consistency.

We will regularly update parents about toilet training in school, to ensure communication and consistent approaches.

We will be sensitive to children's individual needs during the toilet training process. We will talk to the child to ensure they feel safe and secure at all times.

We will use a range of resources to support toilet training including books, role play resources, visual reminders and sticker charts.

When using the toilet, we may use a step and/or special seat to promote children's independence.

During toilet training in the setting, we will teach children how to pull their trousers/skirt/dress/shorts and underwear down and up, how to sit on the toilet, how to wipe themselves and how to wash and dry their hands. These skills will be in accordance with our intimate and personal care policy.

## **Toilet Training Challenges**

We recognise that children who are toilet trained and reliably clean and dry at home may start having accidents when they begin at an early years setting. We will work with parents to support toilet training in these instances in line with our intimate and personal care policy.

If a child has a toileting accident, we will clean them up as soon as it happens, following our intimate and personal care policy. We will put wet/soiled clothes into a bag and hand them to parents that day. We will inform parents about toileting accidents on the day they happen, reporting what happened, the time and what staff did to support the child.

We will ask parents to provide spare sets of clothes during toilet training.

Where a child continues to struggle with toilet training, we will encourage parents and carers to talk to their GP or health visitor. We may also consult with our SENDCO and other external agencies for support. We will engage parents and carers in this process at all stages, taking into consideration parents views and opinions, assessment of the child's individual needs, planning of next steps and reviewing progress.

**Children with SEND** will be supported through the toilet training process at whatever age they are ready to start. We will use visual reminders alongside verbal reminders to support understanding and share these with home to ensure consistency.

Any intimate or personal care will be done in accordance with our intimate and personal care policy and in line with the Early Years Framework (2025) and Safeguarding Policy.

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years, or earlier if needed.