



KNOWLEDGE – EQUALITY – DETERMINATION – ACHIEVEMENT

Oakwood Nursery Toilet & Potty-training Policy

Policy Adopted for: Oakwood Primary Academy

Date of this Policy: January 2026

Policy review date: January 2027

Toileting and Potty-Training Policy

Toilet and potty training are an important developmental milestone and a key self-care skill. At Oakwood Nursery, we support children to develop independence in toileting in line with the **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)**, promoting children's personal care, wellbeing and emotional security.

We recognise that children develop at different rates and that readiness for potty training varies. Our approach is child-centred, inclusive and respectful, ensuring that each child's dignity, confidence and self-esteem are always protected.

This policy supports the EYFS statutory framework, particularly:

- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)** – supporting self-confidence, independence and emotional wellbeing
- **Physical Development** – developing self-care skills, including toileting and dressing
- **Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements** – meeting children's care needs and maintaining dignity and privacy

Our Approach

- Potty training is viewed as a self-care skill that children learn with the sensitive, patient and non-judgemental support of adults.
- No child will be encouraged to begin potty training until they are fully settled and feel secure within the nursery environment.
- Potty training at nursery will only be introduced once it is already established at home and the child is beginning to use the toilet or potty with confidence.
- Children are always encouraged and supported; they are never forced to use the toilet or potty.
- We work in close partnership with parents/carers to ensure consistency between home and nurse

Signs a Child May Be Ready for Potty Training

In line with EYFS guidance, children may be ready to begin potty training when they:

- Show awareness of needing to go to the toilet
- Can stay dry for longer periods
- Show interest in using the toilet or potty

- Can follow simple instructions
- Are beginning to manage clothing with support
- Can communicate needs verbally or through gestures/signs

Potty training will not be rushed and will be delayed if a child shows signs of distress, anxiety or regression.

Nursery Procedures

- All nappy changes and toileting support are recorded in the child's **Tapestry care diary**, in line with safeguarding and welfare requirements.
- Children beginning potty training will be gently encouraged to sit on the toilet or potty during routine nappy changes.
- When ready, children will transition from nappies to underwear (or pull-ups if appropriate) and will be supported to visit the toilet at regular intervals.
- Staff will remind children to use the toilet sensitively and records of toileting attempts will be shared with parents via Tapestry.
- Children are encouraged to develop independence by undressing and dressing themselves where developmentally appropriate, with adult support provided as needed.
- Accidents are managed calmly and discreetly, ensuring children feel reassured and always supported. Staff consistently offer positive praise and encouragement.

Clothing and Spare Items

Parents/carers must ensure their child has **at least three full sets of clearly always labelled spare clothing available at nursery** during potty training.

Children should be dressed in practical, comfortable clothing that supports independence. Please avoid dungarees, belts and clothing with complex fastenings.

The nursery cannot accept responsibility for lost or unlabelled items.

Managing Accidents and Review

If a child in underwear experiences **three or more accidents in one day**, staff may return the child to a pull-up or nappy to reduce distress and maintain emotional wellbeing.

If accidents continue over time, staff will discuss with parents/carers whether potty training should be paused and reviewed at a later date when the child is more developmentally ready.

Safeguarding, Dignity and Wellbeing

- Children's privacy and dignity are always respected during toileting routines.
- Intimate care is carried out in line with the nursery's **Intimate Care Policy**.
- Staff follow all safeguarding procedures and record concerns appropriately.