


# Learning in Nature CIC & Beccles Forest Schools



## Biological Toilet & Composting System Policy

### Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement:

**3.79** Providers must comply with requirements of health and safety legislation, including fire safety and hygiene requirements. **3.86** Providers must ensure... there is an adequate number of toilets and hand basins available - there should usually be separate toilet facilities for adults.

<b>This policy was adopted by:</b>	Learning in Nature CIC & Beccles Forest Schools
<b>Date of adoption:</b>	25th October 2025
<b>Date to be reviewed:</b>	25th October 2026
<b>Signed, on behalf of the provider:</b>	
<b>Name of signatory:</b>	Rach Whitwood
<b>Role of signatory:</b>	Co-Director and Administrative Manager

# Learning in Nature CIC & Beccles Forest Schools

Old School House, Barsham, Beccles, Suffolk, NR34 8HA

Company Number: 11747933

Ofsted URN: 2610910 Setting ref: 2610909



## Policy Statement

Learning in Nature CIC and Beccles Forest Schools is located on The Wild Meadow, an entirely off-grid setting. We believe that this presents valuable opportunities for children, young people, families and adult attendees to learn about and experience processes that consider the impact of people on the environment and the ways in which we can emulate and contribute to natural cycles as biological beings that form part of a wider ecology. One of these processes is the use of biological toilets and the composting of human waste- urine and faeces- (or 'humanure').

The use of biological, dry composting toilets limits the use of water, avoiding the contamination of large quantities of fresh water for the purposes of flushing away humanure as waste, which is usually then treated using harsh chemicals and uses large amounts of energy, leading to pollution of the natural environment and an escalation in the climate crisis. If processed naturally and returned to the earth in an appropriate way, humanure (just like any other manure) is full of nutrients that are beneficial to ecological regeneration.

However, unless processed properly and fully composted, humanure contains pathogens that can cause disease. As such, Learning in Nature CIC and Beccles Forest Schools ensure that a rigorous risk assessment of the processes is conducted and have strict procedures in place to reduce all identified risks.

We have different designated toilet areas in different places for different age-groups. There are toilets for younger children in the Early Years Area. There are toilets for older children in the Forest School Area, and one toilet for adults. These are clearly signposted. There are handwashing facilities outside or within each toilet area. Any incidents of spillage or spread is noted and reported through usual incident reporting procedures.

In the case of any outbreak of illness suspected to be a result of a spillage or spread incident, we undertake a thorough investigation, reassess our procedures for future prevention and notify Ofsted & RIDDOR within 14 days.

Please see Appendices for the legal framework and definitions upon which this policy is written.

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## Legal Requirements and Guidance

In 2010, Part G of the UK Building Regulations came into force, as part of a drive to reduce domestic water consumption. This is the first time the regulations mention composting toilets, a move in a positive direction. We ensure that we adhere to the UK Building Regulations (2010 with 2024 amendments), which state that:

“Chemical toilets or composting toilets may be used where:

- suitable arrangements can be made for the disposal of the waste either on or off the site; and
- the waste can be removed from the premises without carrying it through any living space or food preparation areas (including a kitchen); and
- no part of the installation would be installed in any places where it might be rendered ineffective by the entry of food water.

There are currently no British or European standards for composting toilets. Appropriate guidance can be found in ANSI/NSF 41:2005 as amended by Addendum 1:2007 Non-liquid saturated treatment system. Composting toilets should not be connected to an energy source other than for purposes of ventilation or sustaining the composting process”

The Environment Agency guidance states that we can compost solid waste from portable composting toilets without an environmental permit for a waste operation, where the following procedures are adhered to:

- Only compost solid waste from composting toilets at the depot where the toilets were hired.
- Only compost solid waste from composting toilets with a contained leakproof system that separates urine, solids and sanitary waste.
- Only compost solid waste which was mixed with sawdust or shavings from virgin wood while the composting toilet was being used.
- Compost solids in a secure, leakproof container at a minimum of 70°C for 1 hour or 60°C for 48 hours – the resulting compost must be stable and sanitised so it can be used for soil conditioner or fertiliser.
- Only store and compost up to 10 tonnes of solid waste at any one time.
- Only store up to 1.5 cubic metres of sanitary and other contaminants at any one time.
- Store all sanitary and other contaminants in sealed leakproof containers, and only for up to 5 working days.
- Make sure your activities do not endanger human health or the environment, cause a risk to water, air, soil, plants or animals, cause a nuisance through noise or odours or adversely affect the countryside or places of special interest.

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## Toileting

Lidded toilet buckets with composting liners are used to immediately catch waste. Safely sourced and non-toxic hay, straw, leaves and/or sawdust are used in toilets to absorb moisture and assist in odour control and composting.

The Wild Wee area is used for urine only, with a soakaway system that channels liquids into the ground. This is positioned at least 10 metres away from any watercourse, and at least 50 metres away from any well, borehole or spring, in line with current regulations.

Children are educated and supervised in appropriate and safe use of toilets and in the routine of using hand sanitiser before leaving the cubicle (as the exit can involve touching curtains or doors) and then also handwashing with soap after. Children are asked to sanitise and soap-wash their hands at the toilet hand wash station.

## Accidents and Incidents

Any toilet accidents or incidents are noted and incident reporting processes are undertaken by the end of the working day. Adults will find clean clothes for the child, where appropriate, while they remain in the cubicle, and supervise (and support, if required) with removal of contaminated items and personal clean-up within the cubicle. Hands (and footwear if necessary) are sanitised. Adults support in maintaining the child's privacy as they move to an adjacent, non-contaminated cubicle or cloakroom to put on clean clothes, etc. The child is asked to sanitise and soap-wash their hands at the toilet hand wash station, as usual. The adults check that the child is okay to rejoin the group.

The designated adult cleans the contaminated cubicle following the usual procedures as soon as possible. If it is not possible to do this immediately, the adult informs all other staff and marks the toilet as 'out of order' until a full clean has been completed. Contaminated clothing is double-bagged, named and kept in the locked shed until home-time. It is handed directly to the collecting parent/carer with a verbal report. Any toilet accidents or incidents are noted and incident reporting processes are undertaken by the end of the working day.

## Cleaning

Toilets are constructed with wipeable surfaces (e.g., with army bashas over willow and wooden structure to create walls), allowing for easy cleaning. The ground is kept clear of vegetation so it can be checked, scraped and easily covered if contaminated.

A rigorous and regular cleaning programme and documented general toilet clean and check is conducted every break, or otherwise regularly, throughout sessions. Toilets are

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checked before and after sessions and at least every break time when cleaned (see daily timesheets) to ensure they are sound, clean and not over-full. Hand Wash basins are emptied after use.

Toilets are emptied and cleaned when necessary and between sessions. Our waste removal kit includes the designated lidded bucket, spray sanitiser and composting wipes, a designated trowel and clean toilet liners.

## Toilet and Cubicle Cleaning Process:

- Toilet buckets remain in situ as waste is taken out.
- The lid and seat are removed, sanitised and wiped.
- Wipe is deposited in compost liner holding waste.
- Composting liner with waste is tied and lifted from the toilet bucket and deposited directly into the lidded collection bucket.
- Toilets, and any drips or splashes, are immediately sanitised and wiped.
- Wipe is disposed of in the lidded bucket.
- Staff member's hands are sanitised.
- Clean compostable liner fitted.
- Toilet seat and lid checked and replaced.
- The staff member's hands are sanitised again.
- Rest of the cubicle sanitised and wiped, including walls and entry curtains.
- Ground checked and any signs of possible contamination dug out with a trowel (used for this purpose only) and deposited in a compost liner in a transportation bucket (worker will return later with fresh earth to cover if needs be).
- Staff member's hands are sanitised before leaving the cubicle to empty and clean the next toilet. (Footwear is also sanitised if ground decontamination process has been necessary).

## Waste Transportation

### Waste Transportation Process:

- Waste is transported to the composting station in a lidded bucket (used for this purpose only).
- The transportation bucket is carefully checked before, during and after use to ensure no leakages.
- The lid is always on during transportation.
- Specified route taken to composting area that avoids main areas where children play.
- Composting wheelie-bin held open as bucket contents tipped into wheelie bin.
- Lids, handles of bucket and bin sanitised after use.
- Transportation bucket sanitised, wiped and stored in a restricted area ready for next use.

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## Composting

Waste Composting Process:

- Composting waste is stored in wheelie bins in a gated area of the site that is restricted to staff only.
- Bins are locked and clearly labelled with 'toxic waste' signs.
- They are checked daily (see daily site risk assessment documentation) before and after sessions to ensure no leakages, etc.
- Once full, the bins are labelled with completion and re-opening date and left for a minimum of 2 full years (the full composting process would usually take a year).
- Bins are adapted so they can aerate easily.
- Bins are agitated weekly to encourage oxygenation, promoting the composting process.
- They are stored in a sunny spot to facilitate the thermogenic aspects of the composting process (during which thermosensitive pathogens are destroyed).
- The composting matter is checked seasonally to ensure that these procedures are proving effective.
- After two years the bin is opened and checked to ensure that full composting has occurred.
- If necessary, processes will be adapted and bins will be left for longer (seeking professional support if required).
- Once fully composted, the bin will be wheeled off site to where the compost is to be used.

## Reporting

Any toilet accidents or incidents are noted and incident reporting processes are undertaken by the end of the working day. Parents/carers of children are informed at the end of the session. In the case of any outbreak of illness suspected to be a result of a spillage or spread incident, we undertake a thorough investigation, reassess our procedures for future prevention and notify Ofsted & RIDDOR within 14 days.

## Ongoing Commitment to Safe Toileting

We are thrilled to have a toileting system that allows us to process humanure naturally and return it to the earth in a way that is beneficial to ecological regeneration. We strive to ensure this system is safe. As such, we regularly review our Biological Toilets and Composting System Policy and are mindful of changes both in guidance and the needs of our setting.

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## Appendices

Appendix 1: Legal Frameworks and Guidance

Appendix 2: Biological Toilet and Composting System Risk Assessment

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## Appendix 1: Legal Frameworks and Guidance

Department for Education (2025) *Early years foundation stage statutory framework For group and school-based providers*, Available at

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/68c024cb8c6d992f23edd79c/Early\\_years\\_foundation\\_stage\\_statutory\\_framework\\_-\\_for\\_group\\_and\\_school-based\\_providers.pdf.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/68c024cb8c6d992f23edd79c/Early_years_foundation_stage_statutory_framework_-_for_group_and_school-based_providers.pdf.pdf) (Accessed 25th October 2025)

Environment Agency (2025) *Treating solid waste from composting toilets: RPS 318*, Available at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/treating-solid-waste-from-composting-toilets-rps-318/treating-solid-waste-from-composting-toilets-rps-318> (Accessed 25th October 2025)

HM Government (2010 with 2024 amendments) *The Building Regulations 2010: Sanitation, Hot Water Safety and Water Efficiency*, Available at

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/504207/BR\\_PDF\\_AD\\_G\\_2015\\_with\\_2016\\_amendments.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/504207/BR_PDF_AD_G_2015_with_2016_amendments.pdf) (Accessed 25th October 2025)

Ofsted (2020) *Report a serious childcare incident*, Available at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/report-a-serious-childcare-incident> (Accessed 25th October 2025)

Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) (n.d.) *Reportable Incidents*, Available at <https://www.hse.gov.uk/riddor/reportable-incidents.htm> (Accessed 25th October 2025)

Woo Woo (2021) *What about building regulations?* Available at

<https://www.waterlesstoilets.co.uk/building-regulations/?v=79cba1185463> (Accessed 25th October 2025)

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## Appendix 2: Biological Toilet and Composting System Risk Assessment

Risks & Hazards (level of risk)	Context	Actions Taken to Reduce Risk	New Risk Level
Leakage or spread of unprocessed human waste into areas regularly used by people: hazard to human health.  (Risk Level: High)	Leakage or spread during or after toilet use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Lidded toilet buckets with composting liners used to immediately catch waste.</li> <li>● Checked regularly (before and after sessions and at least every break time when cleaned – see daily timesheets) to ensure they are sound, clean and not over-full.</li> <li>● Emptied &amp; cleaned when necessary and between sessions.</li> <li>● Children educated and supervised in appropriate and safe use of toilets.</li> <li>● Children educated and supervised in the routine of using hand sanitiser <u>before</u> leaving cubicle (as exit will involve touching curtains) and then also handwashing with soap after.</li> </ul>	Low
	Spread after illness, accident or splashing onto cubicle surfaces etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Toilets constructed with wipeable surfaces (e.g., army bashas over willow and wooden structure to create walls).</li> <li>● Ground kept clear of vegetation so can be checked, scraped and easily covered if contaminated.</li> <li>● Toilets checked regularly after use (very regularly with younger children).</li> <li>● Rigorous and regular cleaning programme (see 'Waste Removal and Toilet &amp; Cubicle Cleaning Process' below); documented general toilet clean and check every break.</li> <li>● Any toilet accidents or incidents to be noted on daily timesheet and incident reporting processes to be undertaken by the end of the working day.</li> </ul>	Low
	Spread after illness, accident or splashing onto child (e.g., child's clothing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Adult to find clean clothes for child while they remain in cubicle.</li> <li>● Adult to supervise (support if required) with removal of contaminated items and personal clean-up within cubicle.</li> <li>● Sanitise hands (and footwear if necessary).</li> </ul>	Low

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Adult to support in maintaining child's privacy as they move to adjacent, non-contaminated cubicle or cloakroom to put on clean clothes, etc.</li> <li>● Child to sanitise and soap-wash hands at toilet handwash station as usual.</li> <li>● Adult to check child is okay to re-join group.</li> <li>● Designated adult to clean contaminated cubicle following usual procedures (above) as soon as possible - if not possible immediately, inform all other staff and mark 'out of order' until full clean has been completed.</li> <li>● Contaminated clothing to be double-bagged, named and kept in locked shed until home-time. Hand directly to collecting parent with verbal report.</li> <li>● Any toilet accidents or incidents to be noted on daily timesheet and incident reporting processes to be undertaken by the end of the working day.</li> </ul>	
	<p>Leakage or splashing onto cubicle surfaces during toilet waste removal</p>	<p><i>(Waste removal kit: Designated lidded bucket, spray sanitiser and composting wipes, designated trowel, clean toilet liners.)</i></p> <p><b>Waste Removal and Toilet and Cubicle Cleaning Process:</b></p> <p>(Toilet buckets remain in situ as waste is taken out).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Lid and seat is removed, sanitised and wiped.</li> <li>● Wipe is deposited in compost liner holding waste.</li> <li>● Composting liner with waste is tied and lifted from toilet bucket and deposited directly into lidded collection bucket.</li> <li>● Toilets, any drips or splashes immediately sanitised and wiped (wipe also disposed of in lidded bucket).</li> <li>● Workers hands sanitised.</li> <li>● Clean compostable liner fitted.</li> <li>● Toilet seat and lid checked and replaced.</li> <li>● Workers hands sanitised again.</li> <li>● Rest of cubicle sanitised and wiped, including walls and entry curtains.</li> <li>● Ground checked and any signs of possible contamination dug out with trowel (used for this purpose only) and deposited in compost liner in</li> </ul>	<p>Low</p>

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		<p>transportation bucket (worker will return later with fresh earth to cover if needs be).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workers hands sanitised before leaving cubicle to empty and clean next toilet. (Footwear also sanitised if ground decontamination process has been necessary).</li> </ul>	
	Leakage during waste transportation into used areas of site	<p><b>Waste Transportation Process:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waste is transported to the composting station in a lidded bucket (used for this purpose only).</li> <li>Transportation bucket is carefully checked before, during and after use to ensure no leakages.</li> <li>Lid is always on during transportation.</li> <li>Specified route taken to composting area that avoids main areas where children play.</li> <li>Composting wheelie-bin held open as bucket contents tipped into wheelie bin.</li> <li>Lids, handles of bucket and bin sanitised after use.</li> <li>Transportation bucket sanitised, wiped and stored in restricted area ready for next use.</li> </ul>	Low
	Leakage or spread during composting process	<p><b>Waste Composting Process:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Composting waste is stored in wheelie bins in a gated area of the site that is restricted to staff only.</li> <li>Bins are locked and clearly labelled with 'toxic waste' signs.</li> <li>They are checked daily (see daily site risk assessment documentation) before and after sessions to ensure no leakages, etc.</li> <li>Once full, the bins are labelled with completion and re-opening date and left for a minimum of 2 full years (the full composting process would usually take a year).</li> <li>Bins are adapted so they can aerate easily.</li> <li>Bins are agitated weekly to encourage oxygenation, promoting the composting process.</li> <li>They are stored in a sunny spot to facilitate the thermogenic aspects of the composting process (during which thermosensitive pathogens are destroyed).</li> </ul>	Low

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The composting matter will be checked seasonally to ensure that these procedures are proving effective.</li> </ul>	
	Ineffective composting or failed processing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The composting matter will be checked seasonally to ensure that these procedures are proving effective.</li> <li>After two years the bin will be opened and checked to ensure that full composting has occurred.</li> <li>If necessary, processes will be adapted and bins will be left for longer (seeking professional support if required).</li> <li>Once fully composted, the bin will be wheeled off site to where the compost is to be used.</li> </ul>	
Possible transmissions of illness through contaminated water from hand-washing: hazard to human health (Risk Level: High)	Contraction of illness when using handwashing stations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designated handwashing stations for toilets (for after-toilet use only).</li> <li>Separate handwashing stations for use before food prep.</li> <li>Supervise handwashing to ensure that everyone is using soap when they hand-wash.</li> <li>Be vigilant to ensure that children use running water from taps to rinse hands after soaping.</li> <li>Handwash station basins to be emptied after use (onto reed-beds, trees or designated plants).</li> </ul>	Low
Possible contamination of wildlife through leakage: hazard to animal health (Risk Level: High)	Contamination of the local area, especially considering our location near waterways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure 'soakaway' systems that channel toilet liquids into the ground are positioned at least 10 metres away from any watercourse, and at least 50 metres away from any well, borehole or spring</li> <li>Follow toilet emptying, waste transportation and composting systems as outlined above to prevent any spillage/ spread.</li> </ul>	Low
Possible contraction of illness (e.g., E-coli) though handling organic matter: hazard to human health (Risk level: High)	Contraction of illness when handling straw deposited in toilet bucket after toilet use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designated handwashing stations for toilets (for after-toilet use only).</li> <li>Separate handwashing stations for use before food prep.</li> <li>Supervise handwashing to ensure that everyone is using soap when they hand-wash.</li> <li>Be vigilant to ensure that children use running water from taps to rinse hands after soaping.</li> </ul>	Low

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Handwash station basins to be emptied after use (onto reed-beds, trees or designated plants).</li> </ul>	
<p>Possible harm through use of inappropriate organic materials for composting toilets: hazard to human health (Risk Level: Medium)</p>	<p>Contraction of illness or poisoning through use of inappropriate hay, straw, sawdust or leaves</p>	<p><i>Organic matter, in the form of hay, leaves or sawdust, is used to cover toilet waste to soak up moisture and assist the composting process by toilet users after toilet use, or (periodically) by staff.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that organic material is sourced responsibly. For example, we do not use straw/hay from farms that spread manure. Material is either sourced from our own meadow or purchased pre-sanitised in pet stores.</li> <li>Only sawdust from softwoods is used, as hardwoods are more likely to be toxic.</li> <li>Educate and supervise children to handle organic matter appropriately and to sanitise hands before leave toilet cubicle and then wash hands with soap and water after.</li> </ul>	<p>Low</p>