Intimate Care Policy

DATE OF GOVERNOR APPROVAL	**Summer 2025**
REVIEW FREQUENCY	**Annually**
REVIEW DUE	**Summer 2026**
STATUTORY REQUIREMENT	**YES**
AMENDMENTS	
Date	**Summary of Amendment/s**

Statement of Intent

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Intimate care is carried out properly by staff, in line with any agreed plans
- The dignity, rights and wellbeing of children are safeguarded
- Pupils who require intimate care are not discriminated against, in line with the Equality Act 2010
- Parents/carers are assured that staff are knowledgeable about intimate care and that the needs of their children are taken into account
- Staff carrying out intimate care work do so within guidelines (i.e. health and safety, manual handling, safeguarding protocols awareness) that protect themselves and the pupils involved
- Intimate care refers to any care that involves toileting, washing, changing, touching or carrying out an invasive procedure to children's intimate personal areas.

Note: This policy complies with statutory safeguarding guidance.

Definition

Intimate care is defined as any care which involves washing, touching or carrying out an invasive procedure that most children and young people carry out for themselves, but which some are unable to do. Disabled pupils may be unable to meet their own care needs for a variety of reasons and will require regular support.

Role of parents/carers

1.1 Seeking parental permission

For children who need routine or occasional intimate care (e.g. for toileting or toileting accidents), parents/carers will be asked to sign a consent form.

For children whose needs are more complex or who need particular support outside of what's covered in the permission form (if used), an intimate care plan will be created in discussion with parents/carers.

Where there isn't an intimate care plan or parental consent for routine care in place, parental permission will be sought before performing any intimate care procedure.

If the school is unable to get in touch with parents/carers and an intimate care procedure urgently needs to be carried out, the procedure will be carried out to ensure the child is comfortable, and the school will inform parents/carers afterwards.

1.2 Creating an Intimate Care Plan

Where an intimate care plan is required, it will be agreed in discussion between the school, parents/carers, the child (when possible) and any relevant health professionals.

The school will work with parents/carers and take their preferences on board to make the process of intimate care as comfortable as possible, dealing with needs sensitively and appropriately.

Subject to their age and understanding, the preferences of the child will also be taken into account. If there's doubt whether the child is able to make an informed choice, their parents/carers will be consulted.

The plan will be reviewed twice a year, even if no changes are necessary, and updated regularly, as well as whenever there are changes to a pupil's needs.

1.3 Sharing information

The school will share information with parents/carers as needed to ensure a consistent approach. It will expect parents/carers to also share relevant information regarding any intimate matters as needed.

Role of staff

2. Which staff will be responsible

All staff at the school who carry out intimate care will have been subject to an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) with a barred list check before appointment, as well as other checks on their employment history.

How staff will be trained

Staff will receive:

- Training in the specific types of intimate care they undertake
- Regular safeguarding training
- If necessary, manual handling training that enables them to remain safe and for the pupil to have as much participation as possible
- They will be familiar with:
- The control measures set out in risk assessments carried out by the school
- Hygiene and health and safety procedures
- They will also be encouraged to seek further advice as needed.

Intimate care procedures

3. How procedures will happen

- Two members of staff will be present, with at least one member of staff trained appropriately.

- Ideally the members of staff administering intimate care will be the same sex as the pupil, however at all times the staff members must have had an enhanced DBS check.
- Procedures will be carried out in disabled toilet/designated area.
- Staff will have access to protective gloves, wet wipes, nappy bags and hand cleaning materials.
- The school expects parents/carers to provide underwear and/or a spare set of clothing.
- Any soiled clothing will be contained securely, clearly labelled, and discreetly returned to parents/carers at the end of the day.

4. Concerns about safeguarding

If a member of staff carrying out intimate care has concerns about physical changes in a child's appearance (e.g. marks, bruises, soreness), they will report this using the school's safeguarding procedures.

If a child is hurt accidentally or there is an issue when carrying out the procedure, the staff member will report the incident immediately to a member of the Senior Leadership Team/DSL.

If a child makes an allegation against a member of staff, the responsibility for intimate care of that child will be given to another member of staff as quickly as possible and the allegation will be investigated according to the school's safeguarding procedures.

Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed by twice a year in collaboration with parents/parents.

Links with other policies

This policy links to the following policies and procedures:

- Accessibility plan
- Child protection and Safeguarding
- Health and Safety
- SEND
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions

1.1.1 Appendix 1: Intimate Care Plan

PARENTS/CARERS	
Name of child	
Type of intimate care needed	
How often care will be given	
What training staff will be given	
Where care will take place	
What resources and equipment will be used, and who will provide them	
How procedures will differ if taking place on a trip or outing	
Name of senior member of staff responsible for ensuring care is carried out according to the intimate care plan	
Name of parent or carer	
Relationship to child	
Signature of parent or carer	
Date	
CHILD	
How many members of staff would you like to help?	
Do you mind having a chat when you are being changed or washed?	
Signature of child	
Date	

This plan will be reviewed twice a year.

Next review date:

To be reviewed by:

1.1.2 Appendix 2: Parent/carer consent form

PERMISSION FOR SCHOOL TO PROVIDE INTIMATE CARE	
Name of child	
Date of birth	
Name of parent/carer	
Address	
I give permission for the school to provide appropriate intimate care to my child (e.g. changing soiled clothing, washing and toileting)	☐
I will advise the school of anything that may affect my child's personal care (e.g. if medication changes or if my child has an infection)	☐
I understand the procedures that will be carried out and will contact the school immediately if I have any concerns	☐
I **do not** give consent for my child to be given intimate care (e.g. to be washed and changed if they have a toileting accident). Instead, the school will contact me or my emergency contact and I will organise for my child to be given intimate care (e.g. be washed and changed). I understand that if the school cannot reach me or my emergency contact, if my child needs urgent intimate care, staff will need to provide this for my child, following the school's intimate care policy, to make them comfortable and remove barriers to learning.	☐
Parent/carer signature	
Name of parent/carer	
Relationship to child	
Date	