

Intimate Care Policy



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Policy amended	December 2025
To be reviewed	December 2026

Intimate Care Policy

The provision of intimate care supports St Philip's Church of England Primary School in our aim to be as inclusive as possible and ensures that all children are able to access each and every activity that we have to offer in comfort and at ease.

Intimate care is any care which involves washing, touching or carrying out an invasive procedure (such as cleaning up a pupil after they have soiled themselves) to intimate personal areas. In most cases such care will involve cleaning for hygiene purposes as part of a staff member's duty of care.

In the case of rare, specific procedure only a person suitable trained and assessed as competent should undertake the procedure. Such procedures will be included on a health care plan which will be drawn up following medical advice in partnership with the School Nurse, Parents and named trained staff.

The issue of intimate care is a sensitive one and will require staff to be respectful of the child's needs. The child's dignity should always be preserved with a high level of privacy, choice and control. There shall be a high awareness of child protection issues. Staff behaviour must be open to scrutiny and staff must work in partnership with parents/carers to provide continuity of care to children/young people wherever possible

St Philip's Church of England Primary School is committed to ensuring that all staff responsible for the intimate care of children will undertake their duties in a professional manner at all times. We recognise that there is a need to treat all children with respect when intimate care is given. No child should be attended to in a way that causes distress or pain.

Organisation:

The management of all children with intimate care needs will be carefully planned. The child who requires intimate care is treated with respect at all times; the child's welfare and dignity is of paramount importance.

Staff who provide intimate care are trained to do so (through Child Protection and Health and Safety training and will work in conjunction with the School Nurse) and are fully aware of best practice.

The child will be supported to achieve the highest level of autonomy that is possible given their age and abilities. Staff will encourage each child to do so as much for him/herself as he/she can. This may mean, for example, giving the child responsibility for washing themselves. Individual intimate care plans will be drawn up for particular children as appropriate to suit the circumstances of the child.

Each child's right to privacy will be respected. Careful consideration will be given to each child's situation to determine how many carers might need to be present when a child is toileted. **Where possible, one child will be catered for by one adult unless there is a sound reason for having more adults present.** A further adult will supervise remotely.

Wherever possible the same child will not be cared for by the same adult on a regular basis; ideally there will be a rota of carers known to the child who will take turns in providing care. This will ensure, that as far as possible, over-familiar relationships are discouraged from developing, whilst at the same time guarding against the care being carried out by a succession of completely different carers.

Wherever possible, staff should only care intimately for an individual of the same sex. However, in certain circumstances this principle may need to be waived where failure to provide appropriate care would result in negligence; for example, female staff supporting boys as no male staff are available.

Intimate care arrangements will be discussed with parents/carers on a regular basis and recorded on the child's care plan. The needs and wishes of children and parents will be taken into account wherever possible within the constraints of staffing and equal opportunities legislation.

A log will record details about any intimate care procedures carried out as agreed on the child's care plan. This log will form part of the discussion at review meetings about the plan.

Children wearing nappies:

Parents will be asked to sign an agreement form outlining, as part of the care plan, who will be responsible for changing the child and when and where this will be carried out. This agreement allows the school and the parent to be aware of all the issues surrounding this task right from the outset.

A notebook will be used to record who changes the child, how often this task is carried out and the time they left / returned to the classroom following this task.

It is the parent's responsibility to provide nappies, disposal bags, wipes, changing mat etc. School will provide gloves, plastic aprons, a bin and liners to dispose of any waste. By implementing this good practice parents are reassured that the school has systems in place and procedures for staff to follow.

Health and Safety:

Staff should always wear an apron and gloves when dealing with a child who is bleeding or soiled or when changing a soiled nappy. Any soiled waste should be placed in a polythene

waste disposal bag, which can be sealed. This bag should then be placed in a bin (complete with liner) which is specifically designated for the disposal of such waste. The bin should be emptied on a weekly basis and it can be collected as part of the usual refuse collection service as this waste is not classed as clinical waste. Staff should be aware of the school's Health and Safety Policy.

Sun Protection

The Head teacher and staff understand the dangers posed to children and themselves by over exposure to the sun. In hot weather, parents/carers are encouraged to provide sunscreen for their children, this should be applied at home before children come to school. Children will also be encouraged to wear a hat when playing outside in the sun.

When deemed necessary, staff may apply sunscreen to children who cannot do so for themselves, where prior permission has been given by the parent/carer on the agreed form.

Special Needs:

Regardless of age and ability, the views and/or emotional responses of children with special needs should be actively sought in regular reviews of these arrangements. Individual intimate care policies will be devised for certain children and signed by parents/carers.

S.C Edward Head teacher

Example of Care Plan for Intimate Care at School

Intimate Care Plan for DOB

I am aware of the school's approach to Intimate Care and have looked through this policy on the website.

I give permission to the school to provide intimate care to my child, (see below).

..... will be encouraged to visit the toilet regularly throughout the school day.

..... will be encouraged and supported by school staff to be independent in toileting needs (including washing, wiping and cleaning him/herself)

School staff will clean and change if and when needed.

Parents/carers may be called if the child is distressed and/or the cleaning requires parental support.

School staff will report any intimate care to parents.

Parents will provide spare clothes.

Signed: Date :

Name : Relationship to child :