



## **Intimate care Policy**

### **Introduction**

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 and dignity when intimate care is given. No child should be attended to in a way that causes distress, embarrassment or pain.

Children's dignity will be preserved and a high level of privacy, choice and control will be provided to them. Staff that provide intimate care to children have a high awareness of child protection issues. Staff will work in partnership with parents/ carers to provide continuity of care.

### **Definition**

Intimate care is any care which involves washing, touching or carrying out an invasive procedure to intimate personal areas. In most cases such care will involve procedures to do with personal hygiene and the cleaning of associated equipment as part of the staff members duty of care. In the case of specific procedures only the staff suitably trained and assessed as competent should undertake the procedure.

### **Our Approach to best practice.**

The management of all children with intimate care needs will be carefully planned. The child who requires care will be 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 including safeguarding and Moving and Handling and are fully aware of best practice. Suitable equipment and facilities will be provided to assist children who need special arrangements following assessment from physiotherapists/ occupational therapist.

Staff will be supported to adapt their practice in relation to the needs of the individual children taking into account developmental changes such as puberty or menstruation. Wherever possible staff involved in intimate care will not be involved in the delivery of sex education to the children in their care as an extra safeguard to both staff and the children involved

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 as much for him or herself as they are able.

Individual intimate care plans (Personal Care Pathway) will be drawn up for children as appropriate to suit the circumstances of the child and staff will sign the Continence Covenant.

Each child's right to privacy will be respected. 2 adults will always be present when a child is toileted. Wherever possible the child should be cared for by an adult of the same sex. However, in certain circumstances this principle may need to be waived where the failure to provide appropriate care would result in negligence, e.g. female staff supporting boys in our school, as no male staff are available.

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

The Protection of Children.

All Keeping Children Safe in Education Procedures will be adhered to.

If any staff member has any concerns about physical changes to a child's presentation e.g. marks, bruises, soreness etc they will immediately report concerns to the appropriate designated person for safeguarding.

If a child becomes distressed or unhappy about being cared for by a particular member of staff, the matter will be looked into and outcomes recorded. Parents/carers will be contacted at the earliest opportunity as part of the process in order to reach a resolution; staffing schedules will be altered until the issue is resolved.