

Flanderwell Primary School



Intimate Care Policy

2024-2025

Approved by: DSAT Executive Team

Date:

Last reviewed on: August 2024

Next review due by: August 2025

'Respect, Inclusion, Aspiration, Kindness and Compassion

Introduction

Intimate care is any care which is associated with invasive procedures relating to bodily functions, bodily products and personal hygiene which demands direct or indirect contact with or exposure of intimate parts of the body, such as cleaning up after a child who has soiled themselves. In addition, some children may need help with dressing/undressing or using the toilet. Most children can carry out these functions themselves but it is recognised that some are unable to due to physical disability, learning difficulties, medical needs or needs arising from the child's stage of development.

This Intimate Care Policy has been developed to safeguard children, support staff and ensure good practice is followed. Staff are checked with the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and we are committed to ensuring that all staff responsible for the intimate care of children will undertake their duties in a professional and caring manner at all times. We believe that the intimate care of children cannot be separated from other aspects of their learning and development and we believe that every child has the right to feel safe and secure. We do not discriminate against children who have not reached a stage where they can manage their own personal hygiene and as such welcome all children to participate in our school and provide appropriate support for each child on an individual basis. We recognise the 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.

We aim to:

- ❖ Safeguard the rights and promote the welfare of all children and young people including those who may be more vulnerable to abuse.
- ❖ Provide guidance and reassurance to staff whose duties may include intimate care.
- ❖ Assure parents and carers that staff are knowledgeable about personal care and that their child's individual needs and concerns are taken into consideration.
- ❖ Remove barriers to learning and participation, protect from discrimination and ensure inclusion for all children and young people within our setting.

Our approach to Best Practice

Individual intimate care plans will be drawn up for particular children as appropriate to suit the circumstances of the child.

We will work with parents of a child who requires intimate care to establish a preferred procedure for supporting the child.

Where these procedures may require specialist training, we will seek out training for the staff who will be involved in a child's care, ensuring that the child's key-person and at least one other member of staff accesses the training.

Staff members who are known to the child will take on that responsibility for changing children. The staff member who is involved will always ask the child for permission to assist them. The child will be supported to achieve the highest level of autonomy and independence that is possible given their age and ability. 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. It is the parent's responsibility to provide nappies, disposal bags, wipes.

Working with Parents

We believe that our partnership with parents is an essential principle in our setting and is particularly necessary in relation to children needing intimate care. We recognise that the information required to carry out intimate care is gained from parents as is prior permission (see Appendix 2). We acknowledge that cultural influences may affect what is deemed 'intimate' and ensure we pay regard to social, ethnic and cultural perspectives through open dialogue with parents.

Parents should be encouraged and empowered to work with staff to ensure that their child's needs are identified, understood and met. Staff will work with parents to plan out the intimate care provided using appendix 1.

When any intimate care is carried out on children with individual care plans, it will be recorded on their own personal record (see appendix 3). All information concerning intimate care procedures is recorded and stored securely.

We appreciate that sometimes children have toileting 'accidents' which are out of character for them. In the event of this, and in the absence of a personal intimate care plan, the child would be fully encouraged and supported to achieve the highest level of autonomy that is possible given their age and ability. Staff will encourage the child to do as much for his/herself as possible and parents will be informed the same day. On the rare occasion that a child is soiled to a point where they are unable to clean themselves to a comfortable state, parents would be contacted immediately so that the child could be taken home for bathing.

The Protection of Children

Child Protection procedures will be adhered to. All children will be taught personal safety skills carefully matched to their level of development and understanding to build their confidence and assertiveness about their own body and its worth. Confident and assertive children who feel their body belongs to them are less vulnerable to abuse.

If a member of staff has a concern about physical changes in a child's presentation, e.g. marks, bruises, soreness etc. s/he will follow our safeguarding procedures.

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 this process in order to reach a resolution.

If a child makes an allegation against a member of staff, all necessary procedures will be followed. (See Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Procedures)

Allegations of Abuse

Personnel working in intimate situations with children can feel particularly vulnerable. This school policy can help to reassure both staff involved and the parents of vulnerable children. Action will be taken immediately should there be a discrepancy of reports between a child and the personal assistant. Where there is an allegation of abuse, the guidelines in the Child Protection procedures will be followed.

Health and Safety

Guidelines for Changing Children

- If possible children should be changed standing up using a changing unit where the child walks up steps. There is an accompanying risk assessment for this
- If needed changing beds are used and disinfected after each use.
- The child's skin should be cleaned with a disposable wipe.
- Nappy creams/lotions should be labelled with the child's name and used only if prescribed for that child (by their parents) they must not be shared.
- Disposable gloves should be worn when changing nappies. The nappy should be folded inward to cover faecal material and double wrapped in a nappy bag. We dispose of nappies in the sanitary nappy bin which is emptied by outside agencies.
- Any damp/ soiled clothes are double bagged and put in child's own bag
- Once the child has been changed and removed from the changing area, the surface should be cleaned with an antibacterial detergent spray or wipe and left to dry.
- Gloves, apron and any items used for cleaning the changing area will be wrapped and disposed of via domestic waste.

- Hands should be thoroughly washed afterwards.
- Complete the intimate care record.

Policies

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with policies:

- Health and Safety Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Administering Medicine Policy
- Complaints Policy

The Trust reviews this policy each year. They may, however, review the policy earlier than this, if the government introduces new regulations, or if the trust receives recommendations on how the policy might be improved.

Appendix 1: template 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:

Appendix 2: template parent/carer consent form

PERMISSION FOR SCHOOL TO PROVIDE INTIMATE CARE	
Name of child	
Date of birth	
Name of parent/carer	
Address and contact details	
I give permission for the school to provide appropriate intimate care to my child (e.g. changing soiled clothing, washing and toileting)	<input type="checkbox"/>
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)	<input type="checkbox"/>
I understand the procedures that will be carried out and will contact the school immediately if I have any concerns	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>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).</p> <p>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.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parent/carer signature	
Name of parent/carer	
Relationship to child	
Date	

Appendix 3

TOILET TRAINING/CHANGING RECORD

(To be completed after each 'intimate care' activity)

Child's Name _____ D.O.B. _____

Date	Time	Adult	Comment e.g. what action was taken