



Intimate Care Policy

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Statement of intent

Ainsdale St. John's CE Primary School takes the health and wellbeing of its pupils very seriously. As described in the Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy, the school aims to support pupils with physical disabilities and illnesses to enable them to have a full and rich academic life whilst at school.

The governing board recognises its duties and responsibilities in relation to the Equality Act 2010, which states that any pupil with an impairment affecting their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities must not be discriminated against.

Pupils will always be treated with care, sensitivity and respect when intimate care is given, and no pupil will be left feeling embarrassed or as if they have created a problem.

1. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- Local Government Act 1974
- Disabled Persons (Services, Consultation and Representation) Act 1986
- Children Act 1989
- Education Act 1996
- Education Act 2002
- Mental Capacity Act 2005
- Equality Act 2010
- The Equality Act 2010 (Disability) Regulations 2010
- Children and Families Act 2014
- The Special Educational Needs (Personal Budgets) Regulations 2014
- The Special Educational Needs and Disability (Amendment) Regulations 2015
- The Special Educational Needs and Disability (Detained Persons) Regulations 2015
- The UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
- Data Protection Act 2018
- Health and Care Act

This policy has due regard to statutory and non-statutory guidance, including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE (2015) 'Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years'
- DfE (2015) 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions'
- DfE (2018) 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018'
- DfE (2018) 'Mental health and wellbeing provision in schools'
- DfE (2021) 'School Admissions Code'
- DfE (2024) 'Keeping children safe in education 2024'
- Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) (2015) 'Reasonable adjustments for disabled pupils'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Admissions Policy
- Attendance
- Equality, information and objectives
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy
- Pupils with Additional Health Needs Policy
- Whole school Child Protection Policy
- Suspension and Exclusion Policy
- Positive Relationships and Behaviour Policy
- Complaints Procedures Policy
- Accessibility plan

2. Definitions

For the purpose of this policy, **intimate care** is defined as any care which may involve the following:

- Changing a child who has soiled themselves
- Assisting in toilet issues
- Providing comfort to an upset or distressed pupil

Intimate care tasks refer to the support provided to children for personal hygiene and health needs that require a level of privacy and sensitivity. This can include assistance with toileting, changing clothes, menstrual care, and managing any health-related needs.

Pupils may be unable to meet their own care needs for a variety of reasons and will require regular support.

3. Health and safety

The Health and Safety Policy lays out specific requirements for cleaning and hygiene, including how to deal with spillages, vomit and other bodily fluids.

Any member of staff that is required to assist a pupil with changing a medical bag will be trained to do so and will carry out the procedure in accordance with the Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy.

Staff will wear disposable aprons and gloves while assisting a pupil in the toilet or while changing a nappy, incontinence pad or medical bag.

Soiled nappies, incontinence pads and medical bags will be securely wrapped and disposed of appropriately.

4. Staff and facilities

Staff will receive:

- 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:

- Hygiene and health and safety procedures

They will also be encouraged to seek further advice as needed.

Staff members who provide intimate care will be made aware of what is considered good practice.

Staff will only be required to administer intimate care if they are comfortable doing so.

Suitable equipment and facilities will be provided to assist pupils who need special arrangements following assessment from a physiotherapist or occupational therapist. This may include the following:

- Adjustable bed
- Changing mat
- Non-slip step
- Cupboard
- Adapted toilet seat or commode seat
- Hoist
- Swivel mat
- Disposable gloves/aprons
- Nappies, pads and medical bags
- Tissue rolls (for changing mat/cleansing)
- Supply of hot water
- Soap
- Barrier creams
- Antiseptic cleanser for staff
- Antiseptic cleanser for the changing bed/mat
- Clinical waste bag
- Spillage kit

The school has two accessible toilet facilities that are used for changing areas.

Mobile pupils will be changed while standing up. Pupils who are not mobile will be changed on a changing mat on the floor.

Staff will be supported to adapt their practice in relation to the needs of individual pupils, considering developmental changes, such as the onset of puberty or menstruation.

5. School responsibilities

Arrangements will be made with a multi-agency to discuss the personal care needs of any pupil prior to them attending the school.

Where possible, pupils who require intimate care will be involved in planning for their own healthcare needs, with input from parents welcomed.

In liaison with the pupil and parents, an individual intimate care plan will be created to ensure that reasonable adjustments are made for any pupil with a health condition or disability.

Regular consultations will be arranged with all parents and pupils regarding toilet facilities.

The privacy and dignity of any pupil who requires intimate care will be always respected. A member of staff will change the pupil or assist them in changing themselves if they become wet, or soil themselves. Any pupil with wet or soiled clothing will be assisted in cleaning themselves and will be given spare clothing, nappies, pads, etc., as provided by the parents.

Members of staff will react to accidents in a calm and sympathetic manner.

Arrangements will be made for how often the pupil should be routinely changed if the pupil is in school for a full day, and the pupil will be changed by a designated member of staff. A minimum number of changes will be agreed.

The family's cultural practices will always be considered for cases of intimate care. Where possible, only same-sex intimate care will be carried out.

Parents will be contacted if the pupil refuses to be changed or becomes distressed during the process.

Excellent standards of hygiene will be always maintained when carrying out intimate care.

6. Parental responsibilities

Parents will change their child, or assist them in going to the toilet, at the latest possible time before coming to school.

Parents will provide spare nappies, incontinence pads, medical bags, wet wipes and a change of clothing in case of accidents.

A copy of this policy will be read and signed by parents to ensure that they understand the policies and procedures surrounding intimate care.

Parents will inform the school should their child have any marks or rashes.

Parents will come to an agreement with staff in determining how often their child will need to be changed, and who will do the changing.

7. Safeguarding

Staff members working directly with children will receive safeguarding training as part of their mandatory induction, in line with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

Intimate care is a regulated activity; therefore, only members of staff who have an enhanced DBS certificate with a barred list check are permitted to undertake intimate care duties.

Wherever possible, staff involved in intimate care will not be involved in the delivery of sex education to the pupils in their care as an extra safeguard to both staff and pupils involved.

Individual intimate care plans will be drawn up for pupils as appropriate to suit the circumstances of the pupil.

Each pupil's right to privacy will be respected. Careful consideration will be given to each pupil's situation to determine how many carers will need to be present when the pupil requires intimate care.

If any member of staff has concerns about physical changes to a pupil's presentation, such as marks or bruises, they will report the concerns to the DSL immediately.

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 SLT.

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.

8. Swimming

Pupils in Years 3, 4 and 5 regularly participate in swimming lessons at Dunes Leisure Centre: during these lessons, pupils are entitled to privacy when changing; however, some pupils will need to be supervised during changing.

Parental consent will be obtained before assisting any pupils in changing clothing before and after swimming lessons.

Details of any additional arrangements will be recorded in the pupil's individual intimate care plan.

9. Offsite visits

Before offsite visits, including residential trips, the pupil's individual intimate plan will be amended to include procedures for intimate care whilst off the school premises.

Staff will apply all the procedures described in this policy during residential and off-site visits.

Meetings with pupils away from the school premises, where a chaperone is not present, will not be permitted, unless approval has been obtained by the headteacher.

Consent from a parent will be obtained and recorded prior to any offsite visit.

10. Toilet training

Members of staff providing care will inform another member of staff prior to taking a pupil to be changed or to use the toilet.

Gloves and aprons will be worn before each change and the area should be prepared to ensure it is clean and suitable for use. Gloves must be always worn when changing nappies, and during any instances where the member of staff could come into contact with bodily fluids.

All pupils will be accompanied to the toilet and will be appropriately supervised and supported during the toilet training stage. Staff will be sensitive and sympathetic when changing pupils and will not make negative facial expressions or negative comments. Pupils' efforts will be reinforced by praise where appropriate.

Staff are required to ensure that soiled/wet nappies are changed as soon as possible. Where pupils are left in soiled nappies and/or clothes, this will be dealt with in line with the school's Disciplinary Policy and Procedure.

Pupils will be encouraged to wash their hands with soap and warm water, with assistance provided where necessary.

If a pupil has a toileting accident, they will be offered assistance to change or be changed by a member of staff regardless of their age.

To build independence, pupils will be encouraged to replace their own clothes and flush the toilet, if they are capable of doing so.

Parents are consulted on the approach to toilet training their child to ensure there is consistency with the approach at home. Pupils' progress is discussed at handover with

parents. If any pupil is struggling with toilet training techniques or has any issues, e.g. a rash, this will be discussed with the inclusion lead and the pupil's parents as a referral to a medical professional may be needed.

Toilet Management Plan

Pupil's name:	Class/year group:
Name of personal assistant:	
Date:	Review date:
Area of need	
Equipment required	
Locations of suitable toilet facilities	
Support required	Frequency of support

Working towards independence

Pupil will try to	Personal assistant will	Parents will	Target achieved date

Signed _____ Parent

Signed _____ Personal assistant

Signed _____ Second member of staff

Signed _____ Pupil (where appropriate)