



St Joseph's Catholic Voluntary Academy

"Growing in love, in the spirit of Christ, for the benefit of all."

Intimate Care Policy 2023

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** Staff who work with young children or vulnerable children/young people who have special needs, will realise that the issue of intimate care is a difficult one and will require staff to be respectful of children's needs.
- 1.2** Intimate care can be defined as care tasks of an intimate nature, associated with bodily functions, body products and personal hygiene which demand direct or indirect contact with or exposure of the genitals. Examples include care associated with continence and menstrual management as well as more ordinary tasks such as help with washing or bathing.
- 1.3** Children's dignity will be preserved and a high level of privacy, choice and control will be provided to them. Staff who provide intimate care to children have a high awareness of child protection issues. Staff behaviour is open to scrutiny and staff at St Joseph's Catholic Voluntary Academy School work in partnership with parents/carers to provide continuity of care to children/young people wherever possible.
- 1.4** Staff deliver a full personal safety curriculum, as part of Personal, Social and Health Education, to all children as appropriate to their developmental level and degree of understanding. This work is shared with parents who are encouraged to reinforce the personal safety messages within the home.
- 1.5** St Joseph's Catholic Voluntary Academy 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. St Joseph's Catholic Voluntary Academy School recognises 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.

2.0 OUR APPROACH TO BEST PRACTICE

- 2.1** All children who require intimate care are treated respectfully at all times; the child's welfare and dignity is of paramount importance.
- 2.2** Staff who provide intimate care are and are fully aware of best practice and the school's Safeguarding Policy. Apparatus will be provided to assist with children who need special arrangements following assessment from physiotherapist/ occupational therapist as required.
- 2.3** Staff will be supported to adapt their practice in relation to the needs of individual children taking into account developmental changes such as the onset of puberty and menstruation.

Wherever possible staff who are involved in the intimate care of children/young people will not usually be involved with the delivery of sex and relationship education to their children/young people as an additional safeguard to both staff and children/young people involved.

- 2.4** There is careful communication with each child who needs help with intimate care in line with their preferred means of communication (verbal, symbolic, etc.) to discuss the child's needs and preferences. The child is aware of each procedure that is carried out and the reasons for it.
- 2.5** As a basic principle children 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 themselves as they 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 and in consultation with parents/carers.
- 2.6** St Joseph's Catholic Voluntary Academy School recognises that every child has the right to be accepted for who they are without regard to race, culture and beliefs and will ensure that the values of the parent/carer and child/young person are taken into account when developing an individual intimate care plan
- 2.7** 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 needs help with intimate care. If required, one child will be cared for by two adults.
- 2.8** It is possible that the same child may not always be cared for by the same adult on a regular basis.
- 2.9** Parents/carers will be involved with their child's intimate care arrangements on a regular basis; a clear account of the agreed arrangements will be recorded on the **child's care plan**. Please see appendix B for care plan template. The needs and wishes of children and parents will be carefully considered alongside any possible constraints; e.g. staffing and equal opportunities legislation.
- 2.10** As a child approaches puberty or where a medical condition sees the early onset of puberty, the school will ensure that the individual intimate care plan will be reviewed with the parent/carer to take into account the views and needs of the child/young person.
- 2.11** Each child/young person will have an assigned senior member of staff to act as an advocate to whom they will be able to communicate any issues or concerns that they may have about the quality of care they receive. This member of staff is the school SENDCo and members of the SLT in their absence.

3.0 THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

- 3.1** St Joseph's Catholic Voluntary Academy School Safeguarding Policy will be accessible to staff and adhered to.

- 3.2** Where appropriate, all children will be taught personal safety skills carefully matched to their level of development and understanding.
- 3.3** If a member of staff has any concerns about physical changes in a child's presentation, e.g. marks, bruises, soreness etc. s/he will immediately report concerns to the appropriate manager/ designated person for child protection. A clear record of the concern will be completed and referred to social care and/or the Police if necessary. Parents will be asked for their consent or informed that a referral is necessary prior to it being made unless doing so is likely to place the child at greater risk of harm. A copy of the school's Flowchart for Raising Safeguarding Concerns is available in the School Office.
- 3.4** 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. Staffing schedules will be altered until the issue(s) are resolved so that the child's needs remain paramount. Further advice will be taken from outside agencies if necessary.
- 3.5** If a child makes an allegation against a member of staff, all necessary procedures will be followed (see the school's Safeguarding Policy. This includes referring to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).

4 HEALTH AND SAFETY

When changing nappies and/or dealing with wet/soiled items, staff must wear gloves each time and dispose of them in the Medical Waste Bin. The nappies will also be placed in a Medical Waste Bin which will be emptied daily by a Waste Transfer Company.

5 SOILING OF CHILDREN NOT SUBJECT TO A CARE PLAN

Due to the young age of the children, on occasion they may wet or soil themselves during the school day. If a member of staff becomes aware that a child has wet or soiled themselves, the teacher will be informed immediately and the School Office will be asked to make a telephone call to the parents to confirm whether they are in a position to attend and change the child. In the event that a parent cannot attend, verbal consent must be gained from the parent to change the child and an accompanied member of staff will change the child in accordance with Intimate Care Policy and Appendix A. If we are unable to contact the parent, staff will take appropriate action to safeguard the child's dignity in line with the guidance in Appendix A.

Appendix A

Staff Guidelines

The below guidelines should always be adhered to when changing a child and dealing with wet/soiled items.

If any member of staff becomes aware that a child has wet/soiled their clothing, the teacher should be informed immediately. The office staff should make every effort to contact the parent/carer to confirm if they are able to attend the school to carry out the changing of the child, however if they are unable to come to school a member of staff should try to gain verbal consent from the parent/carer.

- Staff must wear disposable gloves when dealing with an incident.
- A fresh pair of disposable gloves must be worn for each change.
- Gloves and wipes should be placed in the Yellow Bin in the disabled toilet.
- Staff must wash hands with warm soapy water after each change is completed.

The staff member carrying out the change must ensure the class teacher is aware of what they are doing.

All staff should take every care to ensure the child's privacy and dignity at all times.

Appendix B**Intimate Care/Toileting Care Plan**

Name of Child	
Date of Birth	
Condition needing care plan	
Child's choices/opinions	
What the child expected to do for themselves?	
Facilities and equipment needed	
Number of Staff needed	
Main intimate care giver	
Back up in the event of staff absence.	

Training needed	
Training given	
Date care plan to be reviewed	
Record Keeping	

_____ Dated _____
Parent

_____ Dated _____
Class teacher

_____ Dated _____
Main Intimate care giver

_____ Dated _____

_____ Dated _____
Headteacher

_____ Dated _____
Chairperson of Governors

Ratified at Full Governing Body Meeting:

June 2023

Date of next review:

June 2025