



## St Mary's Priory Catholic Infant and Junior Schools

Love one another

Always do our best

Take care of ourselves and the world around us

Intimate care policy

Agreed: Autumn 2023

Date for Review: Autumn 2024

## **Contents:**

### Statement of intent

1. Legal framework
2. Definitions
3. Health and safety
4. School responsibilities
5. Parental responsibilities
6. Safeguarding
7. Seeking parental permission
8. Creating an intimate care plan
9. Sharing information
10. Staff and facilities
11. Swimming
12. Offsite visits
13. Toilet training
14. Concerns about safeguarding
15. Links with other policies
16. Monitoring and review

### Appendices

- a) Record of Intimate Care Intervention and plan
- b) Parental permission agreement

## Statement of intent

St. Mary's Priory 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 and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Children and Families Act 2014
- Education Act 2011
- Health Act 2006
- Equality Act 2010
- DfE (2022) 'Keeping children safe in education'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Health and Safety Policy
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Administering Medication Policy

### 2. Definitions

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

- Washing
- Touching
- Carrying out an invasive procedure
- Changing a child who has soiled themselves
- Providing oral care
- Feeding
- Assisting in toilet issues
- Providing comfort to an upset or distressed pupil

Intimate care tasks are associated with bodily functions, body products and personal hygiene that demand direct or indirect contact with, or exposure of, the genitals.

Examples of intimate care include support with dressing and undressing (underwear), changing incontinence pads, nappies or medical bags such as colostomy bags, menstrual hygiene, helping someone use the toilet, or washing intimate parts of the body.

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 or incontinence pad.

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

Where one pupil requires intimate care or toileting support, nappies and incontinence pads will be disposed of in an ordinary bin, as per health and safety guidelines.

Where more than one pupil requires intimate care, nappies, incontinence pads and medical bags will be disposed as follows:

- **Details of disposal process.**

The changing area or toilet will be left clean. Hot water and soap will be available to wash hands. Paper towels will be available to dry hands.

### **4. 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 wherever possible, 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 respected at all times. A qualified 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. Accurate records of times, staff, and any other details of incidents of intimate care will be kept in a Record of Intimate Care Intervention, and they will be stored in the nurse's office.

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 taken into account 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 maintained at all times when carrying out intimate care.

## **5. 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.

## **6. 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.

Special consideration will be taken to ensure that bullying and teasing does not occur.

## **7. Seeking parental permission**

For children who need routine or occasional intimate care (e.g. for toileting or toileting accidents), parents/carers will be asked to sign a consent form.

For children whose needs are more complex or who need particular support outside of what's covered in the permission form (if used), an intimate care plan will be created in discussion with parents/carers (see Appendices 1 and 2).

Where there is not an intimate care plan or parental consent for routine care in place, parental permission will be sought before performing any intimate care procedure. This is usually when there have been an occasional instance when intimate care is needed.

If the school is unable to get in touch with parents/carers and an intimate care procedure urgently needs to be carried out, the procedure will be carried out to ensure the child is comfortable, and the school will inform parents/carers afterwards.

See Appendix 2 for parent/carer consent form.

## **8. Creating an intimate care plan**

Where an intimate care plan is required, it will be agreed in discussion between the school, parents/carers, the child (when possible) and any relevant health professionals.

The school will work with parents/carers and take their preferences on board to make the process of intimate care as comfortable as possible, dealing with needs sensitively and appropriately.

Subject to their age and understanding, the preferences of the child will also be taken into account. If there's doubt whether the child is able to make an informed choice, their parents/carers will be consulted.

The plan will be reviewed twice a year, even if no changes are necessary, and updated regularly, as well as whenever there are changes to a pupil's needs.

See appendix 1 for a blank template plan to see what this will cover. The plan will include a log of all changes through the day, and available to parents if they need to monitor toilet visits through the day.

## **9. Sharing information**

The school will share information with parents/carers as needed to ensure a consistent approach. It will expect parents/carers to also share relevant information regarding any intimate matters as needed. The frequency of information sharing will be agreed in the intimate care plan. Children will also have

## **10. Staff and facilities**

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

### Staff will receive:

Support from the school nurse for intimate care needs

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:

The control measures set out in risk assessments carried out by the school

Hygiene and health and safety procedures

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

Staff will only be required to administer intimate care if it is listed in their job description or contract of employment.

Procedures will be carried out with two members of staff in a designated changing room that has been designed to provide the correct facilities and resources to aid the care given to each children in a safe and secure manner.

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:

- Changing mat
- Non-slip step
- Cupboard
- Disposable gloves/aprons
- Nappies and nappy 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

The school has one disabled toilet with a washbasin, which is situated near the junior school. In the infant school we have a changing room, allocated for children who are not yet toilet trained.

Mobile pupils wearing pull ups 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, taking into account developmental changes such as the onset of puberty or menstruation.

## **11. Swimming**

Pupils who regularly participate in swimming lessons at the local 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.

## **12. 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 head teacher.

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

### **13. 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.

Where potties are used, they will be emptied immediately and cleaned with an anti-bacterial spray. The potty or toilet is checked to assess whether it is clean before use and toilet paper is well stocked.

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 worn at all times 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 pupil 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 class teacher and the pupil's parents.

### **14. Concerns about safeguarding**

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 the safeguarding lead and head teacher.

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.



## **15. Links with other policies**

This policy links to the following policies and procedures:

- Accessibility plan
- Child protection and safeguarding
- Health and safety
- SEND
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions

## **1. 16. Monitoring and review**

This policy is reviewed every **two years**.

All changes are communicated to relevant stakeholders.

The scheduled review date for this policy is **Autumn 2025**.



--	--	--	--	--

### 3. Toilet Management Plan

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

#### 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)

## PERMISSION FOR SCHOOL TO PROVIDE INTIMATE CARE

Name of child		
Date of birth		
Name of parent/carer		
Address		
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><b>I do not</b> 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		