



Ruardean C of E Primary School

Intimate Care Policy

Love of Learning - Love of Life - Love of One Another
Matthew ch22 v33-40

Policy Reviewed:	Bi-Annually
By:	Performance, Standards and Community Committee
Agreed:	08/05/2025
Next Review:	May 2027
Policy Owner	SENDCo

Related Policies/Documents:

- Acceptable Use Policy (includes internet safety)
- Safeguarding Child Protection Policy and Offer of Early Help
- Allegations of Abuse against Staff Policy
- Behaviour Policy and Anti-Bullying Policy
- Disability Equality Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- RSHE Policy
- SEND Policy

Introduction

Staff that work with young children or children/young people who have SEND will realise that the issue of intimate care is a sensitive one and will require staff to be respectful of children's needs.

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.

Children and young people'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 and young people have a high awareness of child protection issues. Staff behaviour is open to scrutiny and staff at Ruardean C of E Primary School work in partnership with parents/carers to provide continuity of care to children/young people wherever possible.

Staff deliver a full personal safety curriculum, as part of the Personal, Social and Health Education curriculum (including RSE), to all children and young people 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.

Ruardean C of E Primary School is committed to ensuring that all staff responsible for the intimate care of children and young people will always undertake their duties in a professional

manner. Ruardean C of E Primary School recognises that there is a need to treat all children and young people with respect when intimate care is given. No child should be attended to in a way that causes distress or pain.

Our aims:

All children and young people who require intimate care are treated respectfully at all times; the child's welfare and dignity is of paramount importance.

Staff who provide intimate care are trained to do so (including Child Protection and Health and Safety training in moving and handling if required) and are fully aware of best practice. Apparatus will be provided to assist with children and young people who need special arrangements following assessment from physiotherapist / occupational therapist as required.

Staff will be supported to adapt their practice in relation to the needs of individual children and young people considering 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.

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.

As a basic principle, children and young people 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 and young people as appropriate to suit the circumstances of the child. These plans include a full risk assessment to address issues such as moving and handling, personal safety of the child and the carer and health. Staff will wear appropriate protective clothing.

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. Where possible, one child will be cared for by one adult unless there is a sound reason for having two adults present. If this is the case, the reasons should be clearly documented.

Wherever possible the same child will not be cared for by the same adult on a regular basis; there will be a rota of carers known to the child who will take turns in providing care. This will ensure, as far as possible, that over-familiar relationships are discouraged from developing, while at the same time guarding against the care being carried out by a succession of completely different carers.

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. The needs and wishes of children and young people and parents will be carefully considered alongside any possible constraints, e.g. staffing and equal opportunities legislation.

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.

The Protection of Children

Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Executive Partnership Procedures will be accessible to staff and adhered to. All staff will receive Safeguarding Training every 3 years in line with current Working Together to Safeguard Children protocols.

Where appropriate, all children and young people will be taught personal safety skills carefully matched to their level of development and understanding.

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 on the school's safeguarding software and when necessary, a child welfare concern will be logged with the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and a referral made to the Social Care Helpdesk. Parents will be 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.

If a child becomes distressed or unhappy about being cared for by a particular member of staff, the matter will be investigated, 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.

If a child makes an allegation against a member of staff, all necessary procedures will be followed; see guidance at <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gscp/>