



Intimate Care Policy

Date	Review Date	Coordinator	Nominated Governor
September 2020	September 2023	Jessica Bennion	David Watson

Principles

The Local Governing Body will act in accordance with Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 and the Government guidance 'Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education' to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at Barton Clough Primary School. This school takes seriously its responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children and young people in its care. Meeting a pupil's intimate care needs is one aspect of safeguarding. The Local Governing Body recognises its duties and responsibilities in relation to the Equalities Act 2010 which requires that any pupil with an impairment that affects his/her ability to carry out day-to-day activities must not be discriminated against.

This intimate care policy should be read in conjunction with the school policies as below:

- safeguarding policy and child protection procedures
- staff code of conduct and guidance on safer working practice
- whistle-blowing' and allegations management policies
- health and safety policy and procedures
- Special Educational Needs policy
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions and Administering Medicines Policy

The Local Governing Body is committed to ensuring that all staff responsible for the intimate care of pupils will undertake their duties in a professional manner at all times. It is acknowledged that these adults are in a position of great trust. We recognise that there is a need to treat all pupils with respect and dignity when intimate care is given. The child's welfare is of paramount importance and his/her experience of intimate and personal care should be a positive one. It is essential that every pupil is treated as an individual and that care is given gently and sensitively: no pupil should be attended to in a way that causes distress or pain.

Staff will work in close partnership with parent/carers and other professionals to share information and provide continuity of care. Where pupils with complex and/or long term health conditions have a healthcare plan in place, the plan should, where relevant, take into account the principles and best practice guidance in this intimate care policy. Members of staff must be given the choice as to whether they are prepared to provide intimate care to pupils. All staff undertaking intimate care must be given appropriate training. This Intimate Care Policy has been developed to safeguard children and staff. It applies to everyone involved in the intimate care of children.

Child focused principles of intimate care

The following are the fundamental principles upon which the Policy and Guidelines are based:

- Every child has the right to be safe.
- Every child has the right to personal privacy.
- Every child has the right to be valued as an individual.
- Every child has the right to be treated with dignity and respect.
- Every child has the right to be involved and consulted in their own intimate care to the best of their abilities.
- Every child has the right to express their views on their own intimate care and to have such views taken into account.
- Every child has the right to have levels of intimate care that are as consistent as possible.

Definition

Intimate care can be defined as any care which involves washing, touching or carrying out a procedure to intimate personal areas which most people usually carry out themselves but some pupils are unable to do because of their young age, physical difficulties or other special needs. Examples include care associated with continence and menstrual management as well as more ordinary tasks such as help with washing, toileting or dressing.

It also includes supervision of pupils involved in intimate self-care.

Best Practice

Pupils who require regular assistance with intimate care have written health care plans or intimate care plans agreed by staff, parents/carers and any other professionals actively involved, such as school nurses or physiotherapists. Ideally the plan should be agreed at a meeting at which all key staff and the pupil should also be present wherever possible/appropriate. Any historical concerns (such as past abuse) should be taken into account. The plan should be reviewed as necessary, but at least annually, and at any time of change of circumstances, e.g. for residential trips or staff changes (where the staff member concerned is providing intimate care). They should also take into account procedures for educational visits/day trips.

Where relevant, it is good practice to agree with the pupil and parents/carers appropriate terminology for private parts of the body and functions and this should be noted in the plan. Where a care plan is **not** in place, parents/carers will be informed the same day if their child has needed help with meeting intimate care needs (eg has had an 'accident' and wet or soiled him/herself). It is recommended practice that information on intimate care should be treated as confidential and communicated whenever possible in person by telephone or by sealed letter, not through the home/school diary.

For pupils in our Early Years Classes (Nursery and Reception) an intimate care permission letter is included with information provided when pupils start at Barton Clough – see end of policy. It is anticipated that young children may from time to time have toileting accidents and it is necessary to inform parents that we will provide this without contacting them prior to the intimate care being given. The same procedures as above (informing parents the same day that intimate care has been given) will apply.

In relation to record keeping, a written record should be kept in a format agreed by parents and staff every time a child has an invasive medical procedure, e.g. support with catheter usage (see afore-mentioned multi-agency guidance for the management of long term health conditions for children and young people). Accurate records should also be kept when a child requires assistance with intimate care; these can be brief but should, as a minimum, include full date, times and any comments such as changes in the child's behaviour. It should be clear who was present in every case. These records will be kept in school and available to parents/carers on request.

All pupils will be supported to achieve the highest level of autonomy that is possible given their age and abilities. Staff will encourage each individual pupil to do as much for his/herself as possible.

Staff who provide intimate care are trained in personal care (eg health and safety training in moving and handling) according to the needs of the pupil. Staff should be fully aware of best practice regarding infection control, including the requirement to wear disposable gloves and aprons where appropriate. 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 and menstruation.

There must be careful communication with each pupil who needs help with intimate care in line with their preferred means of communication (verbal, symbolic, etc.) to discuss their needs and preferences. Where the pupil is of an appropriate age and level of understanding permission should be sought before starting an intimate procedure.

Staff who provide intimate care should speak to the pupil personally by name, explain what they are doing and communicate with all children in a way that reflects their ages.

Every child's right to privacy and modesty will be respected. Careful consideration will be given to each pupil's situation to determine who and how many carers might need to be present when s/he needs help with intimate care.

SEND advice suggests that reducing the numbers of staff involved goes some way to preserving the child's privacy and dignity. Wherever possible, the pupil's wishes and feelings should be sought and taken into account. An individual member of staff should ask a second appropriate adult to accompany them to assist with intimate care to safeguard both the child and the staff.

The religious views, beliefs and cultural values of children and their families should be taken into account, particularly as they might affect certain practices or determine the gender of the carer.

Adults who assist pupils with intimate care must be employees of the school, not students or volunteers, and therefore have the usual range of safer recruitment checks, including enhanced CRB checks. All staff should be aware of the school's confidentiality policy. Sensitive information will be shared only with those who need to know. Health & Safety guidelines should be adhered to regarding waste products. No member of staff will carry a mobile phone, camera or similar device whilst providing intimate care.

COVID-19

Staff who provide intimate care will wear full PPE.

Child Protection

The Governors and staff at this school recognise that pupils with special needs and who are disabled are particularly vulnerable to all types of abuse. The school's child protection procedures will be adhered to. From a child protection perspective, it is acknowledged that intimate care involves risks for children and adults. In this school best practice will be promoted and all adults (including those who are involved in intimate care and others in the vicinity) will be encouraged to be vigilant at all times, to seek advice where relevant and take account of safer working practice. Where appropriate, pupils 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 pupil's presentation, e.g. unexplained marks, bruises, etc. s/he will immediately report concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Leads (Mr Beswick Executive Headteacher and Miss Bennion Lead Assistant Headteacher). A clear written record of the concern will be completed and a referral made to Children's Services Social Care if appropriate, in accordance with the school's child protection procedures. Parents/carers will be asked for their consent or informed that a referral is necessary prior to it being made but this should only be done where such discussion and agreement-seeking will not place the child at increased risk of suffering significant harm. If a pupil becomes unusually distressed or very unhappy about being cared for by a particular member of staff, this should be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Leads (Mr Beswick and Miss Bennion). The matter will be investigated at an appropriate level and outcomes recorded. Parents/carers will be contacted as soon as possible in order to reach a resolution. Staffing schedules will be altered until the issue/s is/are resolved so that the child's needs remain paramount. Further advice will be taken from outside agencies if necessary. If a pupil, or any other person, makes an allegation against an adult working at the school this should be reported to the Head Teacher (or to the Chair of Governors if the concern is about the Head of School) who will consult the Local Authority Designated Officer in accordance with the school's policy: Dealing with Allegations of Abuse against Members of Staff and Volunteers. It should not be discussed with any other members of staff or the member of staff the allegation relates to. Similarly, any adult who has concerns about the conduct of a colleague at the school or about any improper practice will report this to the Head of School or to the Chair of Governors, in accordance with the child protection procedures and 'whistle-blowing' policy.

Physiotherapy

Pupils who require physiotherapy whilst at school should have this carried out by a trained physiotherapist. If it is agreed in the care plan that a member of the school staff should undertake part of the physiotherapy regime (such as assisting children with exercises), then the required technique must be demonstrated by the physiotherapist personally, written guidance given and updated regularly. The physiotherapist should observe the member of staff applying the technique.

Under no circumstances should school staff devise and carry out their own exercises or physiotherapy programmes. Any concerns about the regime or any failure in equipment should be reported to the physiotherapist.

Medical Procedures

Pupils who are disabled might require assistance with invasive or non-invasive medical procedures such as the administration of rectal medication, managing catheters or colostomy bags. These procedures will be discussed with parents/carers, documented in the health care plan and will only be carried out by staff who have been trained to do so.

It is particularly important that these staff should follow appropriate infection control guidelines and ensure that any medical items are disposed of correctly. Any members of staff who administer first aid should be appropriately trained in accordance with LA guidance. If an examination of a child is required in an emergency aid situation it is advisable to have another adult present, with due regard to the child's privacy and dignity.

Massage

Massage is now commonly used with pupils who have complex needs and/or medical needs in order to develop sensory awareness, tolerance to touch and as a means of relaxation.

It is recommended that massage undertaken by school staff should be confined to parts of the body such as the hands, feet and face in order to safeguard the interest of both adults and pupils.

Any adult undertaking massage for pupils must be suitably qualified and/or demonstrate an appropriate level of competence. Care plans should include specific information for those supporting children with bespoke medical needs.

Monitoring and review

The implementation of this policy will be monitored by the Head Teacher

Executive Headteacher	Simon Beswick	Date:	24 th September
Chair of Governing Body:	Sue Smith	Date:	30 th September

Appendix 1: Intimate Care and Toileting Parental Consent Form

Name of Child:	
Date of Birth:	
Class / Teacher Name:	
Medical need:	
Care required and how often during the day	

Member of staff who will carry out the tasks – all staff need to be fully aware of toileting/intimate care plan:

Name:

Signature:

What will the child do themselves:

Where will the tasks be carried out and what equipment/resources will be required to safely carry out the procedures:

Parents responsibility to provide:

Any School/Home agreement of care/management plan or communication via home-school diary (if required) :

Other professionals involved in care/advisory role: (School nurse, health visitor etc.)

Additional information:

Name of parents/carers:	
Signature(s):	
SENCO:	
Signature:	
Class Teacher:	
Signature:	
Date:	

Barton Clough Foundation Stage

PARENTAL PERMISSION TO PROVIDE INTIMATE CARE

Child's Last name	
Child's First name	
Date of birth	
Parent/carers name	
Contact Number	

I understand that;
 I give permission to the school to provide appropriate intimate care support to my child if they have an accident outside or inside school,
 e.g. changing soiled clothing, washing, and assisting the children when re-dressing.

I will advise the Head Teacher/Deputy Head Teacher and the Foundation stage staff of any medical issue my child may have which affects provision of intimate care.

Name.....

Signature.....

Relationship to child.....

Date.....