

# BROOK PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Intimate Care policy



Last reviewed on:

November 2023

Next review due by:

September 2025

## 1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- › Intimate care is carried out properly by staff, in line with parental permission and any agreed plans
- › The dignity, rights and wellbeing of children are safeguarded
- › Pupils who require intimate care are not discriminated against, in line with the Equality Act 2010
- › Parents/carers are assured that staff are knowledgeable about intimate care and that the needs of their children are considered
- › Staff carrying out intimate care work do so within guidelines (i.e. health and safety, manual handling, safeguarding protocols awareness) that protect themselves and the pupils involved

Intimate care refers to any care that involves toileting, washing, changing, touching or carrying out an invasive procedure to children's intimate personal areas.

## 2. Legislation and statutory guidance

This policy complies with [statutory safeguarding guidance](#).

## 3. Role of parents/carers

### 3.1 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 section 3.2 below).

Where there isn't an intimate care plan or parental consent for routine care in place, parental permission will be sought before performing any intimate care procedure.

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.

### 3.2 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 considered. 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 once 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.

### 3.3 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.

## 4. Role of staff

### 4.1 Which staff will be responsible

Any roles who may carry out intimate care. This includes

- Teachers
- Teaching Assistants
- Head Teacher, Deputy and Assistant Head

No other staff members can be required to provide intimate care.

All staff at the school who carry out intimate care will have been subject to an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) with a barred list check before appointment, as well as other checks on their employment history.

### 4.2 How staff will be trained

Staff will receive:

- Training in the specific types of intimate care they undertake
- 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.

## 5. Intimate care procedures

### 5.1 How procedures will happen

- All children who require intimate care are treated respectfully at all times; the child's welfare and dignity is of paramount importance. Relevant information regarding a child needing intimate care will be gathered from the parents/ care giver to ensure that needs are met appropriately.
- Staff who provide intimate care are fully aware of best practice. Young children will be changed in an appropriate environment, using appropriate equipment, e.g. changing mats, use of a potty, use of the care room facilities. Apparatus will be provided to assist with children who need special arrangements following assessment from physiotherapist/ occupational therapist as required and staff will be trained accordingly.
- Staff will be supported to adapt their practice in relation to the needs of individual children considering developmental changes such as, potty training, the onset of puberty and menstruation. Wherever possible staff involved in the intimate care of children will not usually be involved with the delivery of sex and relationship education to the same children as an additional safeguard to both staff and children 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 should be made aware of each procedure that is carried out and the reasons for it.
- As a basic principle child 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 wiping/washing themselves. (Individual intimate care plans/risk assessments will be drawn up for particular children, with SEND as appropriate, to suit the circumstances of the child.)
- 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. This is to protect their privacy and dignity. At least one other member of staff should be aware when someone is involved in an intimate care task.

- Parents/carers of young children will be made aware of the changing arrangements should their child wet or soil themselves. Parents/carers of children with SEND will review their child's intimate care arrangements with the school 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 parents will be carefully considered alongside any possible constraints; e.g. staffing and equal opportunities legislation.

For pupils needing routine intimate care, the school expects parents/carers to provide, when necessary, a good stock (at least a week's worth in advance) of necessary resources, such as nappies, underwear and/or a spare set of clothing.

Any soiled clothing will be contained securely, clearly labelled, and discreetly returned to parents/carers at the end of the day.

## **5.2 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 DSL.

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.

## **6. Monitoring arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed by the school SENDCo and reviewed bi annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by the headteacher.

## **7. 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

## Appendix 1: template intimate care plan

PARENTS/CARERS	
Name of child	
Type of intimate care needed	
How often care will be given	
What training staff will be given	
Where care will take place	
What resources and equipment will be used, and who will provide them	
How procedures will differ if taking place on a trip or outing	
Name of senior member of staff responsible for ensuring care is carried out according to the intimate care plan	
Name of parent or carer	
Relationship to child	
Signature of parent or carer	
Date	
CHILD	
How many members of staff would you like to help?	
Do you mind having a chat when you are being changed or washed?	
Signature of child	
Date	

This plan will be reviewed twice a year.

Next review date:

To be reviewed by:

## Appendix 2: template parent/carer consent form

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>I <b>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).</p> <p>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	