



# **Intimate Care Policy**

**Agreed by Governors: Autumn 2024  
To be reviewed: Autumn 2026**

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## Introduction

This document reflects the requirements of children who have an increased dependency, have learning or physical difficulties or require practical support with their intimate care needs at school.

The staff at Dothill Primary School are responsible for the care of children, whatever their needs or difficulties.

## Definition

We have defined intimate care as any care which involves washing, touching or carrying out an invasive procedure (such as cleaning up a pupil after they have soiled themselves) to intimate personal areas.

The issue of intimate care is a sensitive one and will require staff to be respectful of the child's needs. Intimate care is a high-risk activity in terms of abuse and it is particularly important that there are guidelines, both to protect those being cared for and the staff who care for the children's needs. Staff agree that everyone is safer if expectations are clear, and approaches are as consistent as possible.

Therefore, our guidelines have the following goals:

- To outline good practice during intimate care tasks
- To protect the children and the staff who are asked to carry out intimate care tasks
- To outline a system that works effectively for the child, ensuring a consistent approach is undertaken

## Our approach to best practice

The management of all children with intimate care needs will be carefully planned. Staff who provide intimate care are trained to do so and are fully aware of best practice. Apparatus will be provided to assist with children who need special arrangements following assessment from physiotherapist / occupational therapist as required.

The 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 him/herself as he/she can. This may mean, for example, giving the child responsibility for washing themselves under the care and supervision of the adults.

## Guidelines

### **1. Children and their parents should have confidence in the staff**

All staff involved in intimate care routines will have been police checked and will receive appropriate training to carry out this aspect of their work. Parents will receive a copy of the school's intimate care policy and will be offered an opportunity to discuss their child's needs with an appropriate member of staff.

## **2. Safeguarding for children and adults**

Two people will be needed for the personal care, one to carry out the task and one to ensure the safeguarding of both child and adult.

## **3. Carers should be aware of the abilities of the child**

The child should be enabled and encouraged, as far as is reasonably possible, to contribute to his/her own intimate care.

## **4. Ensure privacy, appropriate to the child's age and gender**

The school takes the view that the issue of privacy is important. All children will be changed in a discreet area with all the necessary equipment to hand i.e. protective gloves, wipes, clean nappies, change of clothes etc.

## **5. Health and safety issues**

Barrier materials will always be used e.g. disposable gloves. Appropriate lifting and handling procedures will be followed when necessary. Any soiled waste should be placed in a polythene waste disposal bag. This bag should then be placed in a bin (complete with liner) which is specifically designated for the disposal of such waste.

## **6. Parent partnerships.**

School will seek parental views on practices at home. Preferred materials will be used and parents will be encouraged to resource their child's needs whenever possible. Staff will complete a toilet training/changing plan (see appendix A) which can be shared with parents upon request.

