



**Ivingswood Academy  
Intimate Care Policy  
November 2023**

**This policy was approved by the Local Advisory Committee on.....**

**Next review: November 2025**

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### 1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Intimate care is carried out properly by staff, in line with any agreed plans
- The dignity, rights and wellbeing of children are safeguarded
- Pupils with intimate care difficulties are not discriminated against, in line with the Equalities Act 2010
- Parents are assured that staff are knowledgeable about intimate care and that the needs of their children are taken into account
- 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 which 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.

It also complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

### 3. Role of parents

#### 3.1 Seeking parental permission

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

For children whose needs are more complex or who need particular support outside of what is covered in the permission form, an intimate care plan will be created in discussion with parents (see section 3.2 below).

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.

If the school is unable to get in touch with parents 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 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, the child (when possible) and any relevant health professionals.

The school will work with parents 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 is doubt whether the child is able to make an informed choice, their parents will be consulted.

The plan will be reviewed yearly, 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 as needed to ensure a consistent approach. It will expect parents to also share relevant information regarding any intimate matters as needed.

## **4. Role of staff**

### **4.1 Which staff will be responsible**

Staff who may carry out intimate care:

- Teachers
- Learning Support Assistants
- Office/admin staff

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 is 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, including those related to COVID-19

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

## **5. Intimate care procedures**

### **5.1 How procedures will happen**

During intimate care, we aim to have two members of staff present. At times, it may be necessary for one member of staff to carry out the intimate care with an open door.

Procedures will be carried out in our allocated changing areas (Nursery toilet and disabled toilet) in the Early Years Foundation classrooms and in the First Aid room or disabled toilet for older children (years 1-6).

When carrying out procedures, the school will provide staff with:

Apron, protective gloves, cleaning supplies, changing mats and bins.

For pupils needing routine intimate care (children in nursery/reception or those with special educational needs), the school expects parents 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 in a plastic bag, clearly labelled, and discreetly returned to parents 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 (CPOMS)

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 head of school.

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.

### **5.3 Logging/reporting Intimate Care**

All incidents where intimate care is provided will be recorded by staff on the same day that the care has taken place. Parents will be told verbally either by a phone call or face to face when the child is collected at the end of the day (especially if this was an unusual occurrence).

## **6. Monitoring arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed by annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by the Local Advisory Committee.

## **7. Links with other policies**

This policy links to the following policies and procedures:

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



Appendix 1: template intimate care plan

PARENTS/CARERS	
<b>Name of child</b>	
<b>Type of intimate care needed</b>	
<b>How often care will be given</b>	
<b>What training staff will be given</b>	
<b>Where care will take place</b>	
<b>What resources and equipment will be used, and who will provide them</b>	
<b>How procedures will differ if taking place on a trip or outing</b>	
<b>Name of member of staff responsible for ensuring care is carried out according to the intimate care plan</b>	
<b>Name of parent or carer</b>	
<b>Relationship to child</b>	
<b>Signature of parent or carer</b>	
<b>Date</b>	
CHILD (AGED 7-11 YEARS)	
<b>Where would you feel most comfortable for your intimate care to take place?</b>	
<b>Is there anything we can do to make this comfortable for you?</b>	
<b>Signature of child</b>	
<b>Date</b>	

This plan will be reviewed yearly.

Next review date:

To be reviewed by:



Appendix 2: template parent/carer consent form

PERMISSION FOR SCHOOL TO PROVIDE INTIMATE CARE	
<b>Name of child</b>	
<b>Date of birth</b>	
<b>Name of parent/carer</b>	
<b>Address</b>	
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).</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.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Parent/carer signature</b>	
<b>Name of parent/carer</b>	
<b>Relationship to child</b>	
<b>Date</b>	