



# St Saviour's School Intimate Care Policy



## **UNCRC –**

Article 23 (children with a disability) A child with a disability has the right to live a full and decent life with dignity and, as far as possible, independence and to play an active part in the community.

Article 24 (health and health services) Every child has the right to the best possible health.

## **Introduction**

St Saviour's School is committed to ensuring that all staff responsible for the intimate care of children will undertake their duties in a professional manner at all times. We recognise that there is a need to treat all children with respect and dignity when intimate care is given. No child should be attended to in a way that causes distress, embarrassment or pain.

Children's dignity will be preserved and a high level of privacy, choice and control will be provided to them. Staff that provide intimate care to children have a high awareness of safeguarding issues. Staff will work in partnership with parents/carers to provide continuity of care.

## **Definition**

Intimate care is any care which involves washing, touching or carrying out an invasive procedure to intimate personal areas. In most cases such care will involve procedures to do with personal hygiene and the cleaning of associated equipment as part of the staff member's duty of care. In the case of specific procedures only the staff suitably trained and assessed as competent should undertake the procedure.

## **Our Approach to Best Practice**

The management of all children with intimate care needs will be carefully planned. The child who requires care will be treated with respect at all times; the child's welfare and dignity is of paramount importance.

Staff who provide intimate care are fully aware of best practice. Suitable equipment and facilities will be provided to assist children who need special arrangements following assessment from the appropriate agencies.

It is essential that the adult who is going to change the child informs the teacher and/or another member of staff that they are going to do this. There is no written legal requirement that two adults must be present. However, in order to completely secure against any risk of allegation, a second member of staff may be present where resources allow and is best practice. Each child's right to privacy will be respected. Careful consideration will be given to each child's situation to determine how many carers will need to be present when the child is toileted.

Staff will be supported to adapt their practice in relation to specific needs of individual children taking into account developmental changes. 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 they are able.

Wherever possible the child should be cared for by an adult of the same sex. However, in certain circumstances this principle may need to be waived where the failure to provide appropriate care would result in negligence for example, female staff supporting boys in our school, as no male staff are available.

Individual intimate care plans will be drawn up for children as appropriate to suit the circumstances of the child. Intimate care arrangements will be discussed with parents/carers on a regular basis and recorded on the child's personal care plan. The needs and wishes of children and parents will be

taken into account wherever possible within the constraints of staffing and equal opportunities legislation.

## **The Protection of Children**

Safeguarding Procedures and Multi-Agency Protection procedures will be adhered to. Where parents do not co-operate with intimate care agreements concerns should be raised with the parents in the first instance. A meeting may be called that could possibly include the health visitor and headteacher to identify the areas of concern and how all present can address them. If these concerns continue there should be discussions with the school's safeguarding lead about the appropriate action to take to safeguard the welfare of the child.

If any member of staff has concerns about physical changes to a child's presentation, e.g. marks, bruises, soreness etc. s/he will immediately report concerns to the appropriate designated person for safeguarding.

If a child becomes distressed or unhappy about being cared for by a particular member of staff, the matter will be looked into and outcomes recorded. Parents/Carers will be contacted at the earliest opportunity as part of the process in order to reach a resolution; staffing schedules will be altered until the issue(s) are resolved.

### **Links to other related policies:**

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Special Educational Needs and Inclusion Policy

Author	HT
First published	September 2019
Review 1	August 2021
Review 2	August 2022
Review 3	
Next review	By August 2025

## APPENDIX 1: Toilet Management Plan



Child's Name:

Class/Year Group:

Name of Support Staff Involved:

Date of Record:

Review Date:

<b>Area of Need</b>	
<b>Equipment required/by whom</b>	
<b>Location of suitable toilet facilities</b>	
<b>Support required</b>	<b>Frequency of support</b>

### Working towards Independence

School will	Parents will	Child will try to	Target achieved (date)

Signed:

Parents/Carers

Signed:

Member of Staff

Signed:

Child (if appropriate)

## Appendix 2: Risk Assessment

Child's Name:

Date of Risk Assessment:

	Yes	Notes
1. Does weight/size/shape of pupil present a risk?		
2. Does communication present a risk?		
3. Does comprehension present a risk?		
4. Is there a history of child protection concerns?		
5. Are there any medical considerations? Including pain/discomfort?		
6. Has there ever been allegations made by the child or family?		
7. Does moving and handling present a risk?		
8. Does behaviour present a risk?		
9. Is staff capability a risk? (back injury/ pregnancy)		
10. Are there any risks concerning individual capability (pupil)? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General fragility</li> <li>• Fragile bones</li> <li>• Head control</li> <li>• Epilepsy</li> <li>• Other</li> </ul>		
11. Are there any environmental risks? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heat/cold</li> </ul>		

If Yes to any of the above complete a detailed personal handling plan.