



Seamer and Irton CP School

Intimate Care Policy



Policy name	Intimate Care Policy
Frequency of review	Biennial
Governor lead	Helen Mallory
Lead member of staff	Tim Caffrey
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Reviewed by	Governing Board
Next review	June 2026

1. Introduction

1.1 The Intimate Care Policy at Seamer & Irton Primary School recognises that all adults may be involved in duties which require intimate care of children. As the need arises, staff are expected to carry out such a procedure whilst children are in their care. Staff responsible for the intimate care of children will always undertake their duties in a professional manner.

1.2 The school takes seriously its responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children in its care. The Governing Body recognises its duties and responsibilities in relation to the Equality Act 2010 which requires that any child with an impairment that affects his/her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities must not be discriminated against.

1.3 Staff recognise the need for children to be treated with respect when intimate care is given. No child shall be attended to in a way that causes distress, embarrassment or pain.

1.4 Staff will work in close partnership with parents and carers to share information and provide continuity of care.

1.5 Procedures have been adopted with consideration to Department for Education Guidance including Keeping Children Safe In Education and Working Together To Safeguard Children.

2. What is intimate care and who will undertake it?

2.1 Intimate care is 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. In most cases such care will involve cleaning for hygiene purposes as part of a staff member's duty of care. In the case of a specific procedure only a person suitably trained and assessed as competent should undertake the procedure.

2.2 Intimate care is a sensitive issue and will require staff to be respectful of a child's needs. The child's dignity should always be preserved with a high level of privacy, choice and control. There shall be a high awareness of child protection issues.

2.3 There should be a high level of awareness of safeguarding issues; only members of staff will carry out intimate care with children at our school. It is not appropriate to have students or parent helpers carrying out this role. Staff behaviour must be open to scrutiny and staff must work in partnership with parents/carers to provide continuity of care to children/young people wherever possible.

2.4 Seamer & Irton Primary School is committed to ensuring that all staff responsible for the intimate care of children will always undertake their duties in a professional manner.

2.5 Seamer & Irton Primary School recognises that there is a need to treat all children with respect when intimate care is given. No child should be attended to in a way that causes distress or pain.

2.6 A parent or carer will be called if i) a child refuses staff assistance or ii) a child is unduly distressed by the experience.

3. Our Approach to Best Practice

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

3.2 Staff who provide intimate care are trained to do so in relation to Child Protection and Health and Safety implications and best practice guidance.

3.3 For children with specific needs; for example: - children with EHCP's/disabilities/medical needs specific training will be implemented for staff so that they are fully aware of best practice.

3.4 Staff will be supported to adapt their practice in relation to the needs of individual children considering developmental changes such as the onset of puberty and menstruation. Wherever possible, staff members, who are involved in the intimate care of children/young people, will not usually be involved with the delivery of sex education to the children/young people in their care as an additional safeguard to both staff and children/young people involved. Exceptions may be made for pupils with learning disabilities with parental consent/agreement.

3.5 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 his/herself as he/she can. This may mean, for example, giving the child responsibility for washing themselves. Individual intimate care plans will be drawn up for children as appropriate to suit the circumstances of the child.

3.6 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 is toileted.

3.7 Where possible, one child will be catered for by one adult unless there is a sound reason for having more adults present. If this is the case, the reasons should be clearly documented. Wherever possible the same child will not be cared for by the same adult on a regular basis; ideally there will be a rota of carers known to the child who will take turns in providing care.

3.8 Whenever possible, another staff member should stay close by while the procedure is carried out but does not need to stand as a 'witness' to the procedure.

3.9 This will ensure, as far as possible, that over-familiar relationships are discouraged from developing, whilst at the same time guarding against the care being carried out by a succession of completely different carers.

3.10 Intimate care arrangements will be discussed with parents/carers on a regular basis and recorded on the child's care plan. The needs and wishes of children and parents will be considered wherever possible within the constraints of staffing and equal opportunities legislation.

4. Where will the intimate care take place?

4.1 Intimate care will usually take place in the toilets which are always private enough to respect the child's dignity but also allow the adult to be seen.

4.2 No adult will be left alone with a child behind a fully closed door when carrying out intimate care procedures. This is to safeguard both the child and the adult.

5. What safeguarding procedures will be followed?

5.1 The Protection of Children Education Child Protection Procedures and Inter-Agency Child Protection procedures will be adhered to.

5.2 Staff members will follow the school's policies for Safeguarding and for Child Protection. If a member of staff notices marks, injuries, bruising or undue soreness, the staff member will record and share their concern with the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead immediately after completing the intimate care procedure.

5.3 All children will be taught personal safety skills carefully matched to their level of development and understanding.

5.4 If a child becomes distressed or unhappy about being cared for by a member of staff, the matter will be investigated, and outcomes recorded. Parents/carers will be contacted at the earliest opportunity as part of this process to reach a resolution. Staffing schedules will be altered until the issue(s) are resolved so that the child's needs remain paramount. Further advice will be taken from outside agencies if necessary. If a child makes an allegation against a member of staff, all necessary procedures will be followed (Child Protection Procedures for details).

5.5 Health and safety advice for schools can be found in the Health and Safety Handbook, available to schools through the North Yorkshire Education Authority.

6. Further Guidance

6.1 "Working Together to Safeguard Children", Inter-Agency Child

6.2 Protection Procedures. Circular 10/95, Protecting Children from Abuse: The Role of the Education Service DFEE. www.dfes.gov.uk/publications/guidanceonthelaw/10_95summary

What to do if You're Worried A Child is Being Abused. Summary (2003).
www.doh.gov.uk/safeguardingchildren/index.htm

There are appendices attached which offer further guidance and proformas to use to inform parents of intimate care plans and/ or times when children have required intimate care in school.

Appendix 1

What is the procedure for changing a child?

- Ascertain the child has had an accident
- Offer to help the child to change their clothes and make themselves clean
- Seek out a second adult to provide support
- Ensure all changing equipment and resources are to hand
- Staff take the child to the designated changing area (usually the toilets) and establish that the child is happy and comfortable with being changed by talking to the child throughout and telling them what they are about to do before each step
- Reassure the child and make changing an enjoyable time from beginning to end by chatting and/or singing
- Disposable gloves are recommended to be worn. Please note, the use of disposable gloves is not a substitute for good hand hygiene and hands must still be washed at the start and end of the procedure.
- Staff to encourage the child to undress independently where possible. If adult help is needed, the adult is to remove only the clothes required to reach soiled underpants unless further soiling has occurred and the child needs to be changed fully.
- Child to be dressed, or encouraged to dress in clean clothes if soiled. Dirty clothes to be put into a plastic bag and given to parents/carers when the child is picked up at the end of the day. Staff members will not attempt to wash or rinse the clothes.
- Staff to oversee the child wash their hands.
- Staff to determine if changing area should be wiped with anti-bacterial spray and dried after use.
- In the Early Years Foundation Stage class, all intimate care procedures carried out are recorded on the Intimate Care log and signed by the person carrying out the procedure, detailing the procedure carried out and any additional notes, for example, if child was upset or a rash was present. The second adult supporting the procedure will also sign the log. The parent/carer responsible for collecting the child from school that day will be informed of the need to carry out intimate care at the end of the school day.
- In Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 the need to carry out an intimate care procedure is rarer and so the staff member will notify the parents/carers by telephone directly and in person and inform them that intimate care of their child has been necessary. The staff member must inform the child's class teacher and/or a member of the office staff before making the telephone call.
- Class teachers should consider creating an individual healthcare plan for children who require regular changing. (See Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy for an example). This should be written and agreed by parents/carers and staff and signed by both.

Additional Guidance- Appendix 2

Children Wearing Nappies

Schools may have concerns regarding Child Protection issues when they are asked by parents to admit a child who is still wearing nappies. Child Protection need not present an issue. It is good practice to provide information for parents of the policy and practice in the school. Such information should include a simple agreement form for parents to sign (letter attached) outlining who will be responsible, within the school, for changing the child and when and where this will be carried out. This agreement allows the school and the parent to be aware of all the issues surrounding this task right from the outset.

Some schools as part of their good practice have introduced a notebook to record who changes a child, how often this task is carried out and the time they left/returned to the classroom following this task. Examples of such good practice provide reassurance for parents that systems are in place and that schools have implemented procedures for staff to follow. The Governing Body will act in accordance with:

- Education Act 2002-Section 175
- Keeping children Safe in Education

Changing Facilities

Children who have long-term incontinence will require specially adapted facilities. The dignity and privacy of the child should be of paramount concern. Consideration is given to the sighting of this area from a health and safety aspect. The area should not be situated in a thoroughfare, as a changing mat will have to be used on the floor when a child is being changed.

This method of changing a child is recommended, as it avoids having to lift a child and cause possible back injury.

Equipment Provision

Parents have a role to play when their child is still wearing nappies. The parent should provide nappies, disposal bags, wipes; changing mat etc. and parent should be made aware of this responsibility. The school is responsible for providing gloves, plastic aprons, a bin, non-allergic wet wipes, and liners to dispose of any waste.

Health and Safety

Staff should wear a plastic apron and gloves when dealing with a child who is bleeding or soiled or when changing a soiled nappy. Any soiled waste should be placed in a polythene waste disposal bag, which can be sealed. This bag should then be placed in a bin (complete with liner) which is specifically designated for the disposal of such waste. The bin should be emptied on a weekly basis and it can be collected as part of the usual refuse collection service as this waste is not classed as clinical waste. Staff should be made aware of the school's Health and Safety Policy.

Special Needs

Children with special needs have the same rights to safety and privacy when receiving intimate care. Additional vulnerabilities that may arise from a physical disability or learning difficulty must be considered regarding individual teaching for each child. As with all arrangements for intimate care needs, agreements between the child, parents or carers and the school should be easily understood and recorded.

Parents of pupils with regular soiling/wetting will be encouraged to leave a change of clothes in school for the use of their child. Regardless of age and ability, the views, and/or emotional responses of children with special needs should be actively sought (with advocacy arrangements made for those who cannot) in regular reviews of these arrangements.

Appendix 3

Restraint

There may be occasions where it is necessary for staff to restrain children physically to prevent them from inflicting damage on either themselves, others or property.

In such cases only the minimum force necessary should be used for the minimum length of time required for the child to regain self-control. In all cases of restraint, the incident must be documented and reported.

Staff must be fully aware of the school's Physical Intervention Policy, which should comply with the LEA policy.

Under no circumstances would it be permissible to use physical force as a form of punishment, to modify behaviour, or to make a pupil comply with an instruction. Physical force of this nature can, and is likely to, constitute a criminal offence.

Pupils in distress

There may be occasions when a distressed pupil needs comfort and reassurance that may include physical touch such as a caring parent would give.

Staff must always remain self-aware to ensure that their contact is not threatening or intrusive and not subject to misinterpretation. Judgement will need to take account of the circumstances of a pupil's distress, their age, the extent and cause of the distress.

Unless the child needs an immediate response, staff should consider whether they are the most appropriate person to respond. It may be more suitable to involve the child's relative or another adult in school.

Care must be taken in instances, which involve the same pupil over a period of time. Where a member of staff has a concern about the need to provide this type of care and reassurance, they should seek further advice, from their line manager or other appropriate person.

First Aid and Intimate Care

Staff who administer first aid should ensure wherever possible that another adult or other children are present. The pupil's dignity must always be considered and where contact of a more intimate nature is required (e.g. assisting with toileting or the removal of wet/soiled clothing) another member of staff should be in the vicinity and should be made aware of the task being undertaken.

Regular requirements of an intimate nature should be planned for. Agreements between the school, those with parental responsibility and the child concerned should be documented and easily understood. The necessity for such requirements should be reviewed regularly.

The child's views must also be actively sought and any discomfort with the arrangements addressed. A letter of agreement will be required between school and those with parental responsibility. (See appendix 5)

Physical Education and other skills coaching

Some staff are likely to come into physical contact with pupils from time to time in the course of their duties when participating in games, demonstrating an exercise or the use of equipment. Staff should be aware of the limits within which such contact should properly take place and of the possibility of misinterpretation.

Where it is anticipated that a pupil might be prone to misinterpret any such contact, alternatives should be considered, perhaps involving another member of staff or a less vulnerable pupil in the demonstration.

Appendix 4

Permission Form for the Provision of Care

Seamer & Irton School has an Intimate Care Policy, detailing policies and procedures for managing intimate changing and cleaning of children, which is available from the school office or on the website.

If a child wets or soils themselves whilst they are at school, it is important that measures are taken to have them changed (and if necessary cleaned) as quickly as possible. Staff are experienced in carrying out this task if you wish them to do so. Or if preferred, the school can contact you or your emergency contact who will be asked to attend without delay.

Please fill out the permission slip below stating your preference for your child. Please note that this will apply during your child's time at school unless the policy is reviewed.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Webb
Heateacher

Name of Child: _____

Class: _____

Please tick the appropriate box

I give consent for my child to be changed and cleaned by school staff if they wet/soil themselves and if they are unable change themselves independently whilst in the care of Seamer & Irton School.

I do not give consent for my child to be changed and cleaned if they wet/soil themselves. The school will contact me or my emergency contact and I will organise for my child to be changed and cleaned. I understand that in the event I (or the emergency contact) cannot be contacted, the staff will act appropriately and may need to come into some level of physical contact in order to aid the child.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Name of Parent / Carer: _____

Appendix 5 –Further guidance

Out of School Trips, Clubs etc.

Staff should take particular care when supervising pupils in the less formal atmosphere of a residential setting or afterschool activity. Although more informal relationships in such circumstances tend to be usual, the standard of behaviour expected of staff will be no different from the behaviour expected within school. Staff involved in such activities should also be familiar with their school's policy and all LEA guidance regarding out of school activities.

To ensure pupils' safety, increased vigilance may be required when monitoring their behaviour on field trips, holidays etc. It is important to exercise caution so that a pupil is not compromised, and the member of staff does not attract allegations of overly intrusive or abusive behaviour.

Meetings with pupils away from the school premises where a chaperone will not be present are not permitted unless specific approval is obtained from the head teacher or other senior colleague with delegated authority.

Staff should not place themselves in a position where they are in vehicles, house or other venue alone with a child. If staff encounter pupils whilst off duty, they must behave as though in their professional role and not give conflicting messages regarding their own conduct.



Date:

Dear Parent/Carer of: _____

INFORMING PARENTS OF AN INTIMATE CARE ISSUE

This is a courtesy letter to inform you that your child had a toileting accident today at school. This matter was dealt with swiftly and sensitively by: (member of staff) in accordance with our Intimate Care Policy.

We have returned your child's clothing for washing. Please wash and return any items borrowed from the school at your earliest convenience. If you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact the class teacher.

Yours Sincerely

Appendix 7

Record of Intimate Care Intervention

Child's Name:.....

