



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Intimate Care Policy

Policy Information

Policy Name: Intimate Care Policy

School: St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Date Written: July 2026

Approved by Governors: September 2026

Review Date: September 2027

Review Cycle: Annually

Responsible Person: Laura Concannon, Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

1. Statement of Intent

St Mary's Catholic Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare, dignity, health, safety, and independence of all children. We recognise that some pupils may require support with intimate care due to their age, developmental stage, medical needs, disability, special educational needs, or temporary injury.

The school will ensure that intimate care is provided in a sensitive, respectful, and professional manner that protects the child's privacy, dignity, and wellbeing while safeguarding both children and staff.

This policy should be read alongside:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- EYFS Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Medical Needs Policy
- SEND Policy
- Nappy Changing Policy
- Behaviour Policy

2. Definition of Intimate Care

Intimate care refers to any care task involving:

- Dressing and undressing.
- Support with toileting.

- *Changing soiled clothing.*
 - *Cleaning a child after toileting.*
 - *Nappy changing.*
 - *Applying medical creams where intimate areas are involved.*
 - *Supporting personal hygiene needs.*
 - *Supporting pupils with continence care.*
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3. Principles

The school will:

- *Treat every child with dignity and respect.*
- *Involve children in their own care whenever possible.*
- *Encourage independence appropriate to the child's age and ability.*
- *Respect a child's privacy.*
- *Ensure children feel safe and listened to.*
- *Work closely with parents/carers.*
- *Maintain appropriate professional boundaries at all times.*
- *Record and report any safeguarding concerns arising during intimate care.*

No child will be treated less favourably because they require intimate care.

4. Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

The school recognises that children within the EYFS, including Preschool and Reception, may require support with toileting and personal care as part of their developmental needs.

Staff will:

- *Support children sensitively and respectfully.*
- *Encourage independence and toilet training where appropriate.*
- *Communicate with parents/carers regarding accidents and care provided.*
- *Follow agreed procedures for toileting and changing.*
- *Ensure suitable facilities are available.*
- *Maintain children's dignity at all times.*

For Preschool children requiring nappy changing, staff will follow the school's **Nappy Changing Policy**.

5. Nappy Changing

Where nappy changing is required:

- Staff will follow the school's separate Nappy Changing Policy.
 - Appropriate hygiene procedures will be followed.
 - Gloves and protective equipment will be worn.
 - Changing areas will be cleaned following use.
 - Parents/carers will be informed as appropriate.
 - Records will be maintained in accordance with EYFS requirements.
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6. Staffing Arrangements

Intimate care should normally be carried out by a familiar member of staff known to the child.

Staff providing intimate care will:

- Have appropriate training where required.
- Be aware of safeguarding responsibilities.
- Explain what they are doing to the child.
- Seek the child's cooperation wherever possible.
- Respect the child's wishes and feelings.

Where possible:

- Two adults should be aware that intimate care is taking place.
- Staff should leave doors unlocked where appropriate whilst maintaining privacy.
- Intimate care should take place in a designated area.

A second member of staff may be present if:

- The child requests this.
 - A risk assessment identifies this as necessary.
 - The level of care requires additional support.
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7. Individual Care Plans

Where a child requires regular intimate care, the school will develop an Individual Intimate Care Plan in partnership with:

- Parents/carers.
- The child (where appropriate).
- Health professionals.
- SENDCo.
- Relevant school staff.

The plan will outline:

- The child's specific needs.
 - Level of support required.
 - Staffing arrangements.
 - Any medical requirements.
 - Risk assessments.
 - Review arrangements.
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8. Safeguarding

All staff have a duty to safeguard children.

If during intimate care a member of staff:

- Notices marks, bruising, injuries, or changes in presentation.
- Becomes concerned about a child's welfare.
- Receives a disclosure from a child.

They must:

- Record the concern promptly.
- Report immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).
- Record concerns on CPOMS in line with safeguarding procedures.

Staff must never:

- Use intimate care as a reason for unnecessary physical contact.
 - Engage in inappropriate conversations.
 - Take photographs using personal devices.
 - Leave a child unattended where this would place them at risk.
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9. Children with SEND or Medical Needs

The school recognises that some pupils may require ongoing intimate care support due to:

- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).
- Medical conditions.
- Physical disabilities.
- Continence difficulties.

Support will be planned in consultation with parents/carers and relevant professionals to ensure the child's needs are met safely and respectfully.

Reasonable adjustments will be made to enable pupils to access education fully and participate in school life.

10. Recording

The school will maintain appropriate records of:

- Intimate care incidents where necessary.
- Repeated toileting accidents.
- Nappy changing within EYFS settings.
- Individual care plans.
- Safeguarding concerns.

Records will be stored securely and managed in accordance with data protection requirements.

Where safeguarding concerns arise, records will be maintained on CPOMS.

11. Working with Parents and Carers

The school will:

- Work in partnership with parents/carers.
- Discuss intimate care needs before support is provided whenever possible.
- Inform parents/carers of any significant concerns.
- Review arrangements regularly.
- Promote consistency between home and school.

Parents/carers are expected to:

- Provide adequate spare clothing where appropriate.
 - Inform the school of any medical or continence issues.
 - Participate in care planning where required.
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12. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Headteacher and Governing Body or sooner if:

- Legislation changes.
- Statutory guidance changes.
- School procedures require amendment.

The Governing Body will monitor the implementation of this policy as part of its safeguarding responsibilities.

Date approved by Governors: September 2026

Next Review Date: September 2027

Responsible Officer: Laura Concannon, Headteacher and DS