

INTIMATE CARE POLICY

St. Mark's Catholic Primary School



Updated by: Liz Andrews AHT DSL

Date: 10/09/2024

Approved by:

Date:

Last reviewed on:

Next review due by: September 2027

St Mark's Catholic Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, and we expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

St Mark's will ensure that all staff responsible for the intimate care of children undertake their duties in a professional manner at all times.

Our approach to best practice

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.

Pupils will be encouraged to act as independently as possible and to undertake as much of their own personal care as is possible and practicable. When assistance is required, this will normally be undertaken by one member of staff, however, they must ensure that another appropriate adult is in the vicinity who is aware of the task to be undertaken and that, wherever possible, they are visible and/or audible. Intimate or personal care procedures should not involve more than one member of staff unless the pupil's care plan specifies the reason for this.

The child will be supported to achieve the highest level of autonomy that is possible given their age and abilities. Staff will explain to the child what is happening before the care procedure begins and encourage each child to do as much for him/herself as he/she can. Where a child is identified as needing regular intimate care an individual intimate care plan will be drawn up and agreed by parents/carers.

Any vulnerability, including those that may arise from a physical or learning difficulty will be considered when formulating the individual pupil's care plan. The views of parents, carers and the pupil, regardless of their age and understanding, will be actively sought in formulating the plan and in the necessary regular reviews of these arrangements.

Pupils are entitled to respect and privacy at all times and especially when in a state of undress, including, for example, when changing, toileting and showering. However, there needs to be an appropriate level of supervision in order to safeguard pupils, satisfy health and safety considerations and ensure that bullying or teasing does not occur. This supervision should be appropriate to the needs and age of the young people concerned and sensitive to the potential for embarrassment.

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

The Protection of Children

Child Protection procedures will be adhered to.

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

If a member of staff has any concerns about physical changes in a child's presentation, e.g. marks, bruises, soreness etc. s/he will immediately report concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

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 this process in order 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 (see Allegations against Members of Staff and Child Protection Procedures for details).