

THE STOKE POGES SCHOOL

Intimate Care Policy

Date Approved	September 2026
Recommended Review Period	Biannual
Date of Next Review	September 2028
Person Responsible for the Policy	Headteacher

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 who require intimate care are not discriminated against, in line with the Equality Act 2010
- Parents/carers 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 that 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 the Department for Education (DfE) statutory safeguarding guidance:

- [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#)
- [Early Years Foundation Stage \(EYFS\) statutory framework](#)

3. Roles of parents/carers

3.1 Seeking parental permission

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

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

Where there isn't 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/carers 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/carers 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/carers, the child (when possible) and any relevant health professionals.

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

The plan will be reviewed twice a year, even if no changes are necessary, and updated regularly, as well as whenever there are changes to a pupil's needs.

3.3 Sharing information

The school will share information with parents/carers as needed to ensure a consistent approach. Parents/carers are expected to also share relevant information regarding any intimate matters as needed.

4. Role of staff

4.1 Which staff will be responsible

Any roles that may carry out intimate care will have this set out in their job description. This includes learning support assistants.

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.

The Headteacher will:

- Oversee the implementation of this policy
- Ensure staff receive appropriate training and support
- Oversee the development of individual intimate care concerns
- Act as a point of contact for parents/carers/staff regarding intimate care concerns

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 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

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

5. Intimate care procedures

5.1 Staffing

All members of staff performing intimate care procedures have an enhanced DBS with a barred list check.

In general, 1 or 2 members of staff will be present with each child.

In cases where a pupil needs regular intimate care, where possible, the same member of staff will assist the same pupil each time they need support. Where possible, we will ensure that backup members of staff are also people known to the child.

5.2 Arrangements

Procedures will be carried out in a toilet cubicle near the classroom or in the disabled classroom.

Before going to perform intimate care on a child, the member of staff allocated to that child will inform another member of staff of where they are going, and leave doors open as much as privacy allows. Where

possible, they should be within earshot of other members of staff, but the comfort and care of the child should be the priority when choosing a location.

When carrying out the procedures, the school will provide staff with equipment, such as protective gloves, cleaning supplies, and a bin.

For pupils needing routine intimate care, the school expects parents/carers to provide, when necessary, a good stock (at least a week's worth in advance) of necessary resources, such as underwear and/or a spare set of clothing.

Any soiled clothing will be contained securely, clearly labelled and discreetly returned to parents/carers at the end of the day.

Parents will be informed if a procedure has been carried out.

5.3 Changing Within the Classroom

The school recognises that, on some occasions, children may need to change clothing within the classroom environment, for example following water play, outdoor learning activities, messy play, performances, or other school-based activities.

To ensure children's dignity, privacy and wellbeing:

- Children will be encouraged to change independently wherever possible.
- Staff will provide an appropriate area within the classroom to allow children to change discreetly and with dignity.
- Staff will be sensitive to the needs of all pupils, including those with medical conditions, disabilities, additional needs, cultural requirements, or concerns relating to privacy.
- Staff supervising children while changing will maintain professional boundaries at all times and will only provide physical assistance where this is necessary and appropriate.
- Any support provided will promote the child's dignity, independence and self-esteem.
- No photographs, video recordings, or mobile devices will be permitted during changing activities.
- Any safeguarding concerns arising during changing activities will be reported and managed in accordance with the school's safeguarding procedures.
- The school will work in partnership with parents/carers to address any concerns relating to changing arrangements.

5.4 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.

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 DSL.

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.

Where the school notices an increasing pattern of soiling instances, it will first hold a meeting with parents/carers and with any other relevant individuals, such as medical professionals involved with the child to discuss why this might be occurring, and how to help the child. If the pattern continues, the school's DSL will be notified. If there is other evidence which indicates a safeguarding concern, the DSL may contact the local authority designated officer (LADO), who will consider whether there is a safeguarding issue.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed by the Headteacher every two years.

7. Links with other policies

This policy links to the following policies and procedures:

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

Headteacher		Date	
Chair of Governing Board		Date	

Appendix 1: Template intimate care plan

PARENTS/CARERS	
Name of child	
Type of intimate care needed	
How often care will be given	
What training staff will be given	
Where care will take place	
What resources and equipment will be used, and who will provide them	
How procedures will differ if taking place on a trip or outing	
Name of senior member of staff responsible for ensuring care is carried out according to the intimate care plan	
Name of parent or carer	
Relationship to child	
Signature of parent or carer	
Date	
CHILD	
How many members of staff would you like to help?	
Do you mind having a chat when you are being changed or washed?	
Signature of child	
Date	

This plan will be reviewed twice a year.

Next review date:

To be reviewed by:

Appendix 2: Template parent/carer consent form

PERMISSION FOR SCHOOL TO PROVIDE INTIMATE CARE	
Name of child	
Date of birth	
Name of parent/carer	
Address and contact details	
I give permission for the school to provide appropriate intimate care to my child (e.g. changing soiled clothing, washing and toileting)	☐
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)	☐
I understand the procedures that will be carried out and will contact the school immediately if I have any concerns	☐
I do not give consent for my child to be given intimate care (e.g. to be washed and changed if they have a toileting accident). Instead, the school will contact me or my emergency contact(s), and I will organise for my child to be given intimate care (e.g. be washed and changed). I understand that if the school cannot reach me or my emergency contact(s), 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 and remove barriers to learning.	☐
Parent/carer signature	
Name of parent/carer	
Relationship to child	
Date	