



# ST EGWIN'S C.E. MIDDLE SCHOOL

## Intimate Care Policy/Plan

Updated      March 2022  
Review Date      February 2023

Headteacher

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Allman'.

## **1. OVERVIEW**

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.

The issue of intimate care is a sensitive one and will require staff to be respectful of the 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. Staff behaviour may be open to scrutiny and staff must work in partnership with parents/carers to provide continuity of care to children/young people wherever possible.

St Egwin's CE Middle School are 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 when intimate care is given. No child should be attended to in a way that causes distress or pain.

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019
- Safeguarding
- SEND
- Health & Safety
- Staff code of conduct
- Managing allegations of abuse against staff
- Equality policy
- Whistleblowing

## **2. 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.

Staff who provide intimate care are trained to do so (including Child Protection and Health and Safety training as needed for specific pupils with statements/disabilities) and are fully aware of best practice. Apparatus will be provided to assist with children who need special arrangements following assessment from physiotherapist/ occupational therapist as required.

Staff will be supported to adapt their practice in relation to the needs of individual children taking into account developmental changes such as the onset of puberty and menstruation. Wherever possible, staff 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 (APPENDIX 3).

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 themselves as they can. This may mean, for example, giving the child responsibility for washing themselves. Individual Intimate Care

Plans will be drawn up for particular children as appropriate to suit the circumstances of the child (APPENDICES 1-2).

Each child's right to privacy will be respected. When a child is in need of intimate care, two adults should be present. One adult to carry out the necessary care and one adult to support and safeguard the adult and child and satisfy Health and Safety considerations. The carers will generally be the same people who are involved with the care and have had the suitable training but there should be several people who are capable of supporting the child and are aware of their needs.

Intimate care arrangements will be discussed with parents/carers on a regular basis and recorded on the child's care plan (APPENDIX 1). The needs and wishes of children and parents will be taken into account wherever possible within the constraints of staffing and equal opportunities legislation.

A signed record will be kept of all intimate and personal tasks undertaken and, where these have been carried out in another room, will include times left and returned. (APPENDIX 4).

### **3. THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN**

St Egwin's Safeguarding Children 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. they will immediately report concerns to one of the Designated Safeguarding Leads.

- If a child makes an allegation against a member of staff, all necessary procedures will be followed (see Safeguarding policy and Managing allegations of abuse against staff policy for details).

### **4. 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 may 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 (see APPENDICES 1-3).

### **5. TOILETING**

If a child has soiled themselves, it is essential St Egwin's CE Middle School staff protect the child (and themselves) by:

1. Obtaining prior consent (where possible) or telephoning parent/carer for permission to clean/change the child. If the parent/carer refuses they must come to the school immediately to manage the situation;
2. Two adults are to be involved in the process if the parent/carer gives permission. One to clean and the other to be in the vicinity to safeguard the first adult and child;
3. Depending on the age/ability of the child – the child should have autonomy at all times;
4. The situation must be dealt with in a toilet

In the case of supporting a child who requires regular toileting, St Egwin's CE Middle School have a Toilet Management Plan which is completed prior to support taking place (APPENDICES 1-3). If the toilet management plan has been agreed and signed by parents and staff, it is acceptable for two

members of staff to assist a child unless there is an implication for safe moving and handling of the child.

## **6. 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. St Egwin's CE Middle School is responsible for providing gloves, plastic aprons, a bin, non-allergic wet wipes, and liners to dispose of any waste.

## **7. HEALTH & SAFETY**

Staff should wear a plastic apron, gloves and be bare below the elbows to avoid cross contamination and infection control 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 foot-pedal bin, complete with yellow liner specifically for contaminated waste. Staff should be made aware of St Egwin's CE Middle School's Health & Safety policy.

## **8. 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 with regard to individual teaching and EHCP's for each child. As with all arrangements for intimate care needs, agreements between the child, those with parental responsibility and St Egwin's CE Middle School should be easily understood and recorded (APPENDICES 1-3).

Parents of pupils with regular soiling/wetting will be encouraged to provide a change of clothes in school for the use of the child.

**APPENDIX 1**

**ST EGWIN'S CE MIDDLE SCHOOL INTIMATE CARE PLAN**

CHILD'S NAME:	
DATE OF BIRTH:	
NAME(S) OF SUPPORT STAFF INVOLVED:	
AREA OF NEED:	
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED:	
LOCATION OF SUITABLE FACILITIES:	
FREQUENCY OF SUPPORT	
OTHER DETAILS:	

**WORKING TOWARDS INDEPENDENCE**

THE CHILD WILL TRY TO:	
STAFF ASSISTING WILL SUPPORT BY:	
REVIEW DATE:	

**AGREED AND SIGNED BY:**

PARENT/CARER:

DATE:

CHILD (IF APPROPRIATE):

DATE:

STAFF INVOLVED:

DATE:

**APPENDIX 2 ST EGWINS CE MIDDLE SCHOOL TOILET MANAGEMENT PLAN – AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN STAFF AND CHILD**

CHILD'S NAME:	
DATE OF BIRTH:	
SUPPORT STAFF NAME(S):	

**SUPPORT STAFF:**

*As the person supporting you in the toilet you can expect me to do the following:*

- I will stop what I am doing to help you in the toilet as soon as you ask me;
- I will treat you with respect and ensure privacy and dignity at all times;
- I will ask permission before touching you or your clothes;
- I will check that you are comfortable as possible, both physically and emotionally;
- If I am working with another member of staff to help you, we will make sure that we talk in a way that doesn't embarrass you;
- I will look and listen carefully if there is something you want to change about your Toilet Management Plan.

**CHILD:**

*As the child who needs help in the toilet you can expect me to do the following:*

- I will try, whenever possible to let you know a few minutes in advance, that I need to go to the toilet, so that you can come and help me;
- I will let you know straight away when I have had an accident so that we can keep me clean and comfortable;
- I will tell you if I want you to stay in the room or stay with me in the toilet;
- I will tell you straight away if you are doing anything that makes me feel uncomfortable or embarrassed;
- I will work with you to practice things I need to do to become more independent.

**WE WILL REVIEW THIS AGREEMENT ON:**

**SIGNED:**

**CHILD (IF APPROPRIATE):** \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPPORT STAFF INVOLVED:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**APPENDIX 3 PARENTAL PERMISSION FOR ST EGWIN'S CE MIDDLE SCHOOL TO PROVIDE INTIMATE CARE**

**I UNDERSTAND THAT:**

- I give permission to St Egwin's CE Middle School to provide appropriate intimate care support to my child e.g. changing soiled clothing, washing and toileting;
- I will inform the named support staff and/or the Designated Safeguarding Lead of any medical reason my child may have, which affects issues of intimate care;
- I understand that the intimate care provided for my child at St Egwin's CE Middle School will be given by familiar members of staff;
- I understand that the members of staff providing the care for my child have had appropriate training, including Safeguarding Children.

PARENT/CARER NAME:	
SIGNATURE:	
RELATIONSHIP TO CHILD:	
DATE:	
CHILD'S NAME:	
CLASS:	
DATE OF BIRTH:	
ADDRESS AND CONTACT DETAILS:	

