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The Fierté Multi-Academy Trust

# Intimate Care Policy

<b>Document Title</b>	Intimate Care Policy
<b>Effective Date</b>	Autumn 2024
<b>Policy Owner</b>	CEO
<b>Policy Approver</b>	Trust Board

## Document and Version Control

Version	Date	Amended by	Comments
1.0	Autumn 2024	CEO	Academy Policy

Section	Changes Made

## Definition

Intimate care refers to any care that involves toileting, washing, changing, touching, or carrying out an invasive procedure to children's intimate personal areas.

### 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 every child 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 child 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

### 2. Legislation and statutory guidance

This policy complies with [statutory safeguarding guidance](#) as well as our funding agreement and articles of association.

### 3. Role 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. This includes children who are not yet toilet trained.
- For children, whose needs are more complex or who need particular support outside of what's covered in the permission form (if appropriate), 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 contact 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 (where 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.
- See appendix 1 for a blank template plan to see what this will cover.

### **3.3 Sharing information**

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

## **4. Role of staff**

### **4.1 Which staff will be responsible**

- Any roles who may carry out intimate care will have this set out in their job description. This may include teaching staff, support, or inclusion staff.
- 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.

### **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 How procedures will happen**

Our academy approach to staffing numbers is based on our school context – we will always ensure that we have the capacity to have 2 members of staff present according to timings set out in care plans or according to the need of the child.

We know that It is best practice from a health and safety, and safeguarding perspective, to have 2 members of staff present. If it is not possible for any reason, the staff member will ensure that there is another member of staff from the school (DSL/DDSL) present whilst undertaking intimate care. This additional member of staff must be known to the pupil.

Male members of staff can change female pupils, as long as they have an enhanced DBS with a barred list check and are accompanied as best practice indicates by another member of staff.

Procedures will be carried out in an appropriate place e.g., the medical room or disabled toilets to ensure privacy for the child.

When carrying out procedures, the school will provide staff with:

- protective gloves
- cleaning supplies
- changing mats and bins.

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 nappies, 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.

## 5.2 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 Headteacher or 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.

## 6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed by the Headteacher annually in July. At every review, the policy will be approved by the Local Governing Committee and Safeguarding Governor.

## 7. Links with other policies

This policy links to the following policies and procedures:

- Accessibility plan
- Safeguarding
- Health, safety, and welfare
- SEND

## 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 with 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:

## 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 to the school to provide appropriate intimate care for my child (e.g., changing soiled clothing, washing and toileting)	<input type="checkbox"/>
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)	<input type="checkbox"/>
I understand the procedures that will be carried out and will contact the school immediately if I have any concerns	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>I <b>do not</b> give consent for my child to be given intimate care (e.g., to be washed and changed if they have a toileting accident).</p> <p>Instead, the school will contact me or my emergency contact and I will organise for my child to be given intimate care (e.g., be washed and changed).</p> <p>I understand that if the school cannot reach me or my emergency contact, 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.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parent/carer signature	
Name of parent/carer	
Relationship with child	
Date	