



East Midlands
Education Trust

Intimate Care Policy

Autumn 2024

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Mid-Reviews (statutory):			
Document No:		<i>The information contained on this document is considered proprietary to East Midlands Education Trust in that these items and processes were developed at private expense. This information shall not be released, disclosed, or duplicated.</i>	

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1. Policy Statement

The East Midlands Education Trust takes seriously its 'duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school' (Children Act 1989 and Education Act 2004). The welfare of the child is paramount and we adhere to all aspects of Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2018) and Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018). Children's welfare is of high importance and we will always work in the best interests of the child. All children in our academies have a right to be safe and treated with dignity and respect at all times to enable them to access all aspects of the curriculum and to progress and develop.

This policy sets out clear guidelines on supporting intimate care with specific reference to toileting. This policy should be read in conjunction with other EMET policies including:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Health and Safety policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) policy

1.1. 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

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 [statutory safeguarding guidance](#), 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.

For children whose needs are more complex or who need particular support outside of what's covered in the permission form (if used), 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 (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 includes teachers, teaching assistants, care assistants and 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.

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

Procedures will be carried out in the school's accessible changing room. In most instances this will be undertaken on a 1:1 basis where the door to the toilet will remain unlocked and a sign will be placed on the door to indicate that intimate care is taking place. Staff will also be in possession of a radio to contact a colleague for support as and when required.

Where there are known additional risks or such an agreement has been put into place with the child's parent, colleagues will seek the support of another member of staff to complete intimate care on a 2:1 basis. In any such instance, support will be provided by a member of the Senior Leadership Team or office staff.

Intimate care may be provided by both male and female staff members, all of whom will have an enhanced DBS check. Procedures will be carried out in the accessible changing room.

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

- protective gloves
- cleaning supplies
- changing mats
- bins
- wipes

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 other available Designated Safeguarding Lead (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.

Children who are unable to verbally communicate a concern about their intimate care will receive intimate care on a 2:1 basis. The staff responsible for undertaking intimate care will be rotated and monitored by the schools SENDCO or Headteacher.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed by the Head or SENDCO annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by the governing body.

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

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/carers 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)	<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 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).</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 to child	
Date	

Intimate Care – Record Sheet

Name: _____

Class: _____

Week Commencing: _____

Monday			Tuesday			Wednesday			Thursday			Friday			Comments
Time	Staff code	Intimate care	Time	Staff code	Intimate care	Time	Staff code	Intimate care	Time	Staff code	Intimate care	Time	Staff code	Intimate care	
		Soiled nappy/pull up Wet nappy/pull up Change of clothes Assisted toileting			Soiled nappy/pull up Wet nappy/pull up Change of clothes Assisted toileting			Soiled nappy/pull up Wet nappy/pull up Change of clothes Assisted toileting			Soiled nappy/pull up Wet nappy/pull up Change of clothes Assisted toileting			Soiled nappy/pull up Wet nappy/pull up Change of clothes Assisted toileting	
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