

St John Vianney Catholic Primary School, West Denton



Through following Jesus, we aim to be a caring, happy school, where everyone is valued and appreciated and can reach their true potential. We hope to act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with our God

Intimate Care Policy 2023-2025

Date reviewed: October 2023

Date of next review: October 2025



Intimate Care Policy

Rationale

Intimate care is any care which involves washing, touching or carrying out an invasive procedure (such as cleaning up after a child has soiled him/herself), that most children can carry out for themselves, but which some are unable to do due to physical disability, special educational needs associated with learning difficulties, medical needs or needs arising from the child's stage of development.

Given the nature of the school population at St John Vianney intimate care will only need to be provided on an occasional basis and usually to the youngest children e.g. when a child has wet or soiled themselves. Any child requiring or likely to require intimate care on a more regular basis e.g. as a result of a special need or long-term illness, will have a Personal Care Management Plan which will outline the procedures to be followed.

Aims

1. To ensure that children requiring intimate care receive such care in a timely and respectful manner, and in a way that enables them to feel safe and secure.
2. To ensure that children are treated as individuals and in such a way that protects their privacy and dignity.
3. To permit and promote the greatest level of self-care and independence for each child.
4. To ensure that staff providing intimate care have the necessary guidance and support to enable them to carry out their responsibilities effectively.
5. To ensure that parents / carers are clear about the school's approach, and have confidence that the school will act in the child's best interests.
6. Wherever possible, school will always work with parents and local health visitors to ensure that children are potty trained before starting Nursery. However, where this is not possible, school will continue to support families if a child needs additional support.
7. To fulfil the school's obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 2005. This means that we are committed to ensuring equality of education and opportunity for disabled pupils. We aim to develop a culture of inclusion and diversity to enable disabled pupils to participate fully in school life, and will ensure that our policy and procedures for intimate care support the achievement of our aims in relation to disabled pupils. (See the school's Disability Equality Scheme for further details).

Guidelines

1. The head teacher accepts responsibility, in principle, for staff to provide intimate care to children when required.
2. All staff dealing with intimate care are familiar with the school's Child Protection Policy and have received appropriate training. Staff are aware of the sensitivities around intimate care and are mindful of the need to act in accordance with the agreed procedures.
3. Intimate care is never provided by volunteers.
4. Where possible the child is asked for their consent for the care to be given, and their preference as to who the care is provided by is also considered.
5. Staff are sensitive to gender, religious and cultural issues around intimate care.
6. Care is provided at the point of need and undue delay is avoided.
7. The following procedures are followed when intimate care is required:
 - The care is provided in an appropriate area.
 - It is usually appropriate for the care to be provided by one member of staff, but it is important that a second member of staff is in close proximity. This ensures an appropriate balance between the child's right to privacy and the potential vulnerability of the staff member providing the care.
 - If there is not a member of support staff available in a classroom, then the class teacher will send for a member of staff from the parallel class or another year group. At lunchtime the Mid-day Supervisor will take responsibility for providing the care.
 - The member of staff providing the care gives verbal re-assurance to the child, including providing a running commentary on what they are doing. The aim of this is to promote the well-being of the child as well as strengthen the protection for the member of staff provided through the presence of the second member of staff nearby.
 - However, the child is encouraged to attend to their needs independently, if it is safe to do so. It may be possible to provide supervision and guidance, intervening only when necessary or if the child asks for help.
 - However, if a child cannot be cleaned to a hygienic standard, the parents will be contacted and the child will go home to shower and change, returning to school as soon as possible.
 - The member of staff providing the care makes a brief written record in the record book kept in the early Years' classrooms, disabled toilet in KS1 and UKS2 (name of child, care provided, reason, name of both members of staff, date) and fills in an information slip which will be discreetly given to the adult picking up the child at home time.
8. In instances where regular care, specialist care or specialist equipment is required a Personal Care Management Plan will be developed. This will include provision for any specific training required by staff.
9. See also the school's Child Protection Policy.

Headteacher's signature _____

Subject Lead's signature _____

Chair of Governor's signature _____

Date: October 2023

Renewal time frame: 2023-2025