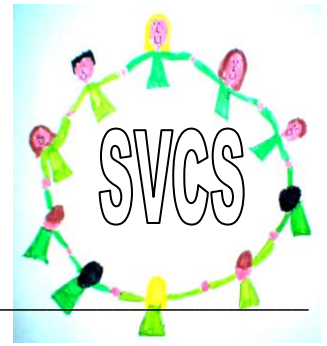


Stroud Valley Community Primary School

Intimate Care Policy



Stroud Valley Community Primary School is 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 care and respect when intimate care is given. No child will be attended to in a way that causes distress, pain or embarrassment.

Intimate care will only be carried out in line with any agreed plans.

Our aims are to:

- maintain the dignity, rights and well being of the individual child
- be sensitive to their individual needs and preferences
- maximise safety and comfort
- encourage the individual to care for themselves as much as they are able
- protect against intrusion and abuse
- respect children's rights to withdraw their consent or for their parent / carer to do so.
- to safeguard the children and adults involved.

What is intimate care?

Intimate care is hands-on physical care in personal hygiene, and/or physical presence or observation during such activities. It may include:

- bathing other than to the arms, face and legs below the knee
- toileting, wiping and care in the genital and anal areas
- continence care
- placement, removal and changing of incontinence pads
- menstrual hygiene
- dressing and undressing

This type of care will only be carried out by an adult if the child concerned is unable to attend to their own needs. The aim is to promote as much independence as is reasonably possible to respect the child's dignity.

Intimate care requires:

All staff involved in intimate care will have enhanced DBS clearance

If a child becomes distressed or unhappy about being cared for by a particular member of staff, the matter will be looked into and the situation resolved with the child and parents

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 will always be preserved with a high level of privacy, choice and control.

Staff will be culturally sensitive and aware of different concepts of privacy, nudity and in/appropriate touch

Intimate Care Plans

Individual intimate care plans will be drawn up for particular children as appropriate to suit the circumstances of the child. This will always be completed in discussion with parents / carers and if necessary external professionals will also be involved.

We will take their preferences into account to make the process of intimate care as comfortable as possible, dealing with needs sensitively and appropriately.

If appropriate to a child's understanding they will also be involved in the consultation process.

These plans will also include a risk assessment and include information linked the personal safety of the child, the carer and moving and handling children

Resources required will also be listed for example the need for the provision of wet wipe / replacement clothes

Occasional Intimate Care

Where there is not an intimate care plan (eg toileting accidents) parents will be called to attend and change the child, understate the intimate care. If parents cannot attend their permission, verbal, will be taken with at least two members of staff to witness the conversation.

If the school is unable to get in touch with the parent / carers and the intimate care is urgent the procerus will be carried out with two people present.

Staff

The staff member undertaking the care to be familiar with the child and their circumstances

The staff member to give the child as much choice and control over the care as is possible

Where possible one child will be cared for by a designated adult, unless there is a sound reason for having two present. The child and parents will be fully aware of who provides the care and a review, with them, carried out regularly. Details will be recorded in the intimate care plan.

We will offer children as much consistency of care as possible so that they can develop a rapport with the care staff

Wherever possible staff should only care intimately for an individual of the same sex.

A record to be kept describing any intimate care procedures that are carried out. This will include the name of the person involved in the care and the nature of the task.

We will offer children as much consistency of care as possible so that they can develop a rapport with the care staff

SAFEGUARDING

Through intimate care it is important that there is a clear awareness of child protection issues

The adult caring for the child will be trained in child protection issues for the individual situation they are working with. If a member of staff has any concerns about physical changes in a child's presentation, e.g. marks, bruises, soreness etc. s/he will immediately report concerns to the designated safeguarding lead.

If a child is hurt accidentally or there is an issue when carrying out the procedure the staff member will report immediately to the headteacher.

Staff behaviour must be open to scrutiny and staff must work in partnership with parents/carers to provide continuity of care to children/young people wherever possible.

Advice to safeguard staff with regard to situations which may lend themselves to allegations of abuse.

All staff engaged in the care and education of children and young people need to exercise caution in the use of physical contact.

The expectation is that staff will work in 'limited touch' cultures and that when physical contact is made with pupils this will be in response to the pupil's needs at the time, will be of limited duration and will be appropriate given their age, stage of development and background. During 'limited touch' careful verbal communication will take place ensuring the child is aware of each procedure being carried out and the reasons for them.

Staff should be aware that even well intentioned physical contact might be misconstrued directly by the child, an observer or by anyone the action is described to. Staff must therefore always be prepared to justify actions and accept that all physical contact be open to scrutiny.

Children with special needs may require more physical contact to assist their everyday learning. The general culture of 'limited touch' will be adapted where appropriate to the individual requirements of each child. The arrangements must be understood and agreed by all concerned.

Extra caution may be required where a child has suffered previous abuse or neglect. In the child's view, physical contact might be associated with such experiences and staff should take care to ensure that they provide a safe environment where their actions may not be wrongly interpreted by the child. Verbal communication, rehearsing with the child the stages of the procedure, will help the child to feel safe.

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 and the allegation investigated.

Health and Safety

If involved in changing / intimate care disposable gloves must be work

Other policies that need to be understood in relation to this intimate care policy are:

- Safeguarding and child protection procedures
- Whistle Blowing and allegations management
- Special Education Needs Policy

Policy Review

Policy Title	Intimate Care Policy
Date Policy Ratified by Governors	Feb 2024
Date for next review	Feb 2026

Intimate Care Plan

Name Of Child	
Date Completed	
Name (s) of person to be involved in intimate care	
Name (s) of person to be involved in intimate care if main person unavailable	
Where will the intimate care take place	Designate which toilet will be used, one where privacy can be maintained but the adult feels safe ie not behind a closed door.
What resources will be needed and who will provide	
Procedure for care/changing	
Disposal Plans	
Training Requirements	
Infection Control Measures	Staff must wear disposable gloves Soiled wear to be double wrapped and returned to parents. Hands must be thoroughly washed after the changing
Special Arrangements for trips etc	
Review Date	
Review Comments	
Parent Signature	
School Signature	

Intimate Care Plan Agreements

The Parent

I agree to ensure that the child is changed at the latest possible time before being brought to school.

I agree to come to the school and change my child if at all practical

I will provide the school with the necessary resources eg clean change of clothes

I understand from the intimate care plan and agree to the procedures that will be followed when my child is changed at school – including any use of cleanser or wipes

I agree to inform the school should the child have any marks/rashes

I agree to a 'minimum change' policy. The school will only undertake a change when necessary and no more frequently than when at home.

I agree to attend review meetings and at other times if the school requests

Signed.....

Date:

The School

We agree to change the child should the child soil themselves or become uncomfortable wet should the parent not be available

We will monitor the number of times a child needs intimate care to monitor progress

We agree to report if the child should become distressed, or if marks / rashes are seen

We agree to arrange regular review meetings or more if circumstance change.

Signed.....

Date: