



St Bede's Childcare Ltd

Intimate Care Policy

Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement:

Children learn best when they are healthy, safe and secure, and when their individual needs are met. (EYFS 2024, 3.1)

Policy Statement

St Bede's Childcare is committed to ensuring that all children receive intimate care in a safe, respectful, and dignified manner. We recognise that intimate care is a fundamental part of children's wellbeing and development and will always be carried out in line with safeguarding procedures.

This policy should be read alongside our **Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy**, **Health and Safety Policy**, and **Nappy Changing Policy**.

Definition

Intimate care refers to tasks associated with personal hygiene and bodily functions, including:

- Nappy changing
- Toileting
- Washing
- Changing clothes
- Supporting children with additional care needs

Principles

We will:

- Treat all children with dignity and respect
- Promote independence and encourage children to do as much as they can for themselves
- Ensure privacy at all times
- Communicate with children in an age-appropriate way
- Work in partnership with parents/carers

Parental Consent and Care Plans

- Written parental consent will be obtained for all intimate care tasks
- For children with additional needs:
 - An **individual care plan** will be developed
 - This will be created with parents/carers and relevant professionals



- Care plans will be regularly reviewed

Procedure for Intimate Care

Staff will:

- Explain to the child what is happening in a reassuring way
- Ensure privacy (e.g. designated changing areas)
- Use appropriate **personal protective equipment (PPE)**:
 - Gloves
 - Aprons where necessary
- Follow hygiene procedures:
 - Clean the child appropriately
 - Dispose of waste safely
 - Wash hands thoroughly after care
- Ensure the child is comfortable and appropriately dressed after care

Health and Hygiene

- All staff will follow infection control procedures
- Changing areas will be cleaned after each use
- Waste will be disposed of in line with setting procedures
- Any signs of infection, soreness, or concern will be reported

Safeguarding

- Intimate care will be carried out in a way that protects both children and staff
- Staff will:
 - Avoid being completely isolated where possible (maintain visibility/hearing)
 - Follow safer working practice guidance
- Any concerns about:
 - A child's wellbeing
 - Marks, bruises, or changes
must be reported immediately to the **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)**
- Any concerns about staff conduct must also be reported



Supporting Children with SEND

We recognise that some children require additional support. We will:

- Work with the **SENDCo** and external professionals
- Adapt care to meet individual needs
- Use specialist equipment where required
- Ensure children are supported sensitively and appropriately

Recording

- Any concerns arising during intimate care will be recorded
- Accidents or incidents will be documented in line with policy
- Parents/carers will be informed of any concerns

Staff Responsibilities

Staff must:

- Follow all procedures and policies
- Maintain professional boundaries
- Respect confidentiality at all times
- Report concerns immediately
- Ensure safe and hygienic practice

Working with Parents/Carers

We will:

- Communicate openly with parents/carers
- Share relevant information about their child's care
- Respect family preferences and routines where possible

Monitoring and Review

- The Manager will monitor practice to ensure compliance
- Staff will receive training and support
- This policy will be reviewed annually