



# St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

## Intimate Care Policy

September 2025

This policy should be read in light of our Mission Statement that states:

**'At St. Joseph's, we live, love and learn by the example of Jesus.'**

### **Rationale**

St. Joseph's Catholic 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. St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School recognises that there is a need to treat all children with respect when intimate care is given. No child should be attended to in a way that causes distress or pain.

### **Purposes**

1. To ensure that all children with intimate care needs are treated with respect at all times.
2. To ensure that staff who provide intimate care are trained to do so (including child protection and health and safety training in lifting and moving) and are fully aware of best practice.

### **Broad Guidelines**

1. Each student's right to privacy will be respected. Careful consideration will be given to each student's situation to determine how many carers might need to be present when a student is toileted. Where possible, one student will be catered for by one adult unless there is a sound reason for having more adults present. If this is the case, the reasons should be clearly documented.

2. Students will be supported to achieve the highest level of autonomy that is possible given their age and abilities. Staff will encourage each student to do as much for him/herself as he/she can.

This may mean, for example, giving the student responsibility for washing themselves. Individual intimate care plans will be drawn up for particular students, as appropriate, to suit the circumstances of the student.

3. Wherever possible the same student will not be cared for by the same adult on a regular basis.

Wherever possible staff should only care intimately for an individual of the same sex. However, in certain circumstances this principle may need to be waived where failure to provide appropriate care would result in negligence.

4. Intimate care arrangements will be discussed with parents/carers on a regular basis and recorded on the student's care plan. The needs and wishes of students and parents will be taken into account wherever possible within the constraints of staffing and equal opportunities

legislation.

5. If a member of staff has any concerns about physical changes in a student's presentation, (eg: marks, bruises, soreness etc) he/she will immediately report concerns to the appropriate person designated for child protection.



### Our School Values

Respect - Self-belief - Faith - Friendship - Resilience - Self-control - Perseverance - Aspiration



6. If a student becomes distressed or unhappy about being cared for by a particular member of staff, the matter will be looked into and outcomes recorded. Parents/carers will be contacted at the earliest opportunity as part of this process in order to reach a resolution.

7. The student's need remain paramount. Further advice will be taken from outside agencies, if necessary.

### Aims

1. To give students the best intimate care available at school.
2. To ensure student with such needs are treated with sensitivity, dignity and diplomacy
3. To ensure students privacy is respected.

### Conclusion

The School has a responsibility for care which involves washing, touching or carrying out an invasive procedure to intimate personal areas. The issue of intimate care is a sensitive one and will require staff to be respectful to the student's needs and to be aware of the child protection issues. Staff behaviour must be open to scrutiny and staff must work in partnership with parents/carers to provide continuity of

care to students, wherever possible.

Review Date: September 2026