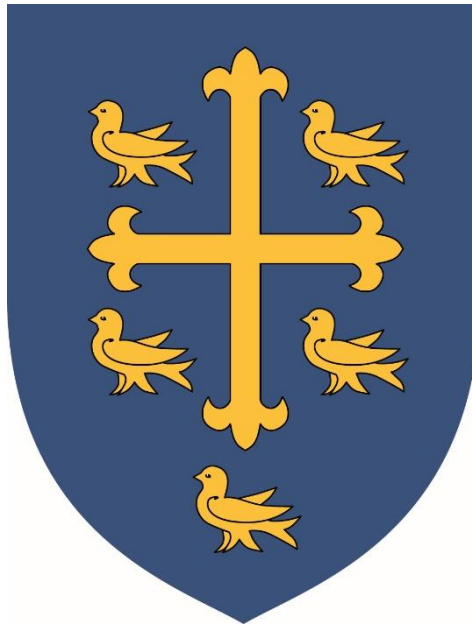


St. Edward's Catholic Primary School



Intimate Care Policy 2026/27

'Jesus is at the heart of all that we do'

At St. Edward's, we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the children and adults in our school, and we have the same expectation of our staff and volunteers.

Policy agreed/Signed by: _____
(Mr K Connolly – Chair of Governors)

Date: _____

Agreed on: September 2026

Review date: September 2027

SAINT EDWARD'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
INTIMATE CARE POLICY 2026/27

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1. Statement of intent

St. Edward's Catholic Primary School takes the health and wellbeing of its pupils very seriously. As described in the Medical Needs Policy, the school aims to support pupils with physical disabilities and illnesses to enable them to have a full and rich academic life whilst at school.

The governing body recognises its duties and responsibilities in relation to the Equality Act 2010, which states that any pupil with an impairment affecting his/her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities must **not** be discriminated against.

Pupils will always be treated with care and respect when intimate care is given, and no pupil will be left feeling embarrassed.

2. Legal framework

2.1 This policy has due regard to relevant legislation and guidance, including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE (2026) 'Keeping children safe in education'
- The Children and Families Act 2014
- The Education Act 2011
- The Health Act 2006
- The Equality Act 2010

2.2 This policy will be implemented in conjunction with the school's:

- Cleaning Bodily Fluids Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Administering Medications Policy
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3. Definitions

3.1 For the purpose of this policy, intimate care is defined as any care which may involve the following:

- Washing
- Touching
- Carrying out an invasive procedure
- Changing a child who has soiled themselves
- Providing oral care
- Feeding
- Assisting in toilet issues
- Changing nappies or continence products; cleaning a pupil who has soiled themselves.
- Providing comfort to an upset or distressed pupil

3.2 Intimate care tasks are associated with bodily functions, body products and personal hygiene that demand direct or indirect contact with, or exposure of, the genitals.

3.3 Examples of intimate care include support with dressing and undressing (underwear), changing incontinence pads, nappies or medical bags such as colostomy bags, menstrual hygiene, helping someone use the toilet, or washing intimate parts of the body.

3.4 Pupils may be unable to meet their own care needs for a variety of reasons and will require regular support.

4. Health and safety

4.1 St. Edward's Catholic Primary School's Health and Safety Policy lays out specific requirements for cleaning and hygiene, including how to deal with spillages, vomit and other bodily fluids.

4.2 Any member of staff that is required to assist a pupil with changing a medical bag will be trained to do so and will carry out the procedure in accordance with the Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy.

4.3 Where intimate care forms part of support for a pupil with a medical condition, the arrangements will be coordinated with the pupil's Individual Healthcare Plan, where one is required, and relevant healthcare professionals will be involved as appropriate.

4.4 Staff will wear disposable aprons and gloves while assisting a pupil in the toilet or while changing a nappy, incontinence pad or medical bag.

4.5 Soiled nappies, incontinence pads and medical bags will be securely wrapped and disposed of appropriately, in line with the Cleaning Bodily Fluids Policy.

4.6 Where pupils require intimate care/toileting, nappies, incontinence pads and medical bags will be disposed of in the grey medical waste bin in the Disabled Toilet opposite EYFS classroom, as per health and safety guidelines.

4.7 The changing area or toilet will be left clean.

4.8 Hot water and soap are available to wash hands.

4.9 Paper towels are available to dry hands.

5. Staff and facilities

5.1 Staff members who provide intimate care are trained to do so, and are fully aware of best practice. **Suitable equipment and facilities will be provided to assist pupils who need special arrangements following assessment from a physiotherapist or occupational therapist.** This may include the following:

- Cupboard
- Adapted toilet seat or commode seat
- Disposable gloves/aprons
- Nappies, pads and medical bags
- Tissue rolls (for changing mat/cleansing)
- Supply of hot water
- Soap
- Antiseptic cleanser for staff
- Antiseptic cleanser for the changing bed/mat
- Clinical waste bag
- Spillage kit

5.2 St. Edward's Catholic Primary School has two extended disabled toilet facilities with a washbasin which include two changing areas. One toilet facility (opposite EYFS) also has a disabled access shower.

5.3 Mobile pupils will be changed while standing up.

5.4 Staff will be supported to adapt their practice in relation to the needs of individual pupils, taking into account developmental changes such as the onset of puberty or menstruation.

6. School responsibilities

- 6.1 Multi-agency arrangements will be made, where appropriate, to discuss the personal care needs of any pupil prior to them attending the school.
- 6.2 Pupils who require intimate care will be involved in planning for their own healthcare needs wherever possible.
- 6.3 In liaison with the pupil and parents/carers, an Individual Intimate Care Plan will be created to ensure that reasonable adjustments are made for any pupil with a health condition or disability.
- 6.4 Regular consultations will be arranged with all parents/carers and pupils regarding toilet facilities.
- 6.5 The privacy and dignity of any pupil who requires intimate care will be respected at all times.
- 6.6 Staff will explain what they are going to do before providing intimate care and, taking account of the pupil's age, communication needs and level of understanding, seek the pupil's agreement before proceeding. Pupils will be encouraged to communicate their wishes, preferences and concerns and to undertake as much of their own personal care as they can safely manage.
- 6.7 In accordance with the school's agreed safeguarding arrangements, two designated members of staff will be involved where a pupil requires direct intimate care. The arrangements for individual pupils will be recorded in their Individual Intimate Care Plan and regularly reviewed.
- 6.8 Any pupil with wet or soiled clothing will be assisted in cleaning themselves and will be given spare clothing, nappies, pads, etc., as provided by the parents/carers, with wet clothing being returned to parents in a yellow medical waste bag.
- 6.9 Members of staff will react to accidents in a calm and sympathetic manner.
- 6.10 Accurate records of times, staff, and any other details of incidents of intimate care will be kept, and they will be stored in the main office.
- 6.11 Arrangements will be made for how often the pupil should be routinely changed if the pupil is in school for a full day, and will be changed by a designated member of staff.
- 6.12 A minimum number of changes will be agreed.
- 6.13 The family's cultural practices will always be taken into account for cases of intimate care.
- 6.14 Where possible, only same-sex intimate care will be carried out.
- 6.15 Parents/carers will be contacted if the pupil refuses to be changed or becomes distressed during the process.
- 6.16 Excellent standards of hygiene will be maintained at all times when carrying out intimate care.

7. Parental responsibilities

- 7.1 Parents/carers will change their child, or assist them in going to the toilet, at the latest possible time before coming to school.
- 7.2 Parents/carers will provide spare nappies, incontinence pads, medical bags, wet wipes and a change of clothing in case of accidents.

7.3 A copy of this policy will be read and signed by parents/carers to ensure that they understand the policies and procedures surrounding intimate care.

7.4 Parents/carers will inform the school should their child have any marks/rashes.

7.5 Parents/carers will come to an agreement with staff in determining how often their child will need to be changed, and who will do the changing.

8. Safeguarding

8.1 Staff undertaking intimate care will have undergone the appropriate safer recruitment and pre-employment checks required for their role in accordance with KCSIE and the school's safer recruitment procedures.

8.2 Wherever possible, staff involved in intimate care will not be involved in the delivery of sex education to the pupils in their care as an extra safeguard to both staff and pupils involved.

8.3 Individual Intimate Care Plans will be drawn up for pupils as appropriate to suit the circumstances of the pupil.

8.4 Each pupil's right to privacy will be respected. Careful consideration will be given to each pupil's situation to determine how many carers will need to be present when the pupil requires intimate care.

8.5 If, during intimate care, a member of staff observes an injury, mark, change in presentation, behaviour or demeanour, receives a disclosure, or has any other safeguarding concern, they must follow the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and report the concern to the DSL or deputy DSL without delay. Concerns must be recorded in accordance with the school's safeguarding procedures.

8.6 Any concern, including a low-level concern or allegation, about the conduct of an adult providing intimate care must be reported and managed immediately in accordance with the school's safeguarding procedures, Staff Code of Conduct and procedures for managing allegations or concerns about adults working with children.

9. Swimming

9.1 Pupils in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 regularly participate in swimming lessons off site. During these lessons, pupils are entitled to privacy and dignity when changing. Where a pupil requires support or supervision with changing, appropriate arrangements will be agreed in advance with the pupil and their parents/carers and, where applicable, recorded in the pupil's Individual Intimate Care Plan.

9.2 Parental consent will be obtained before assisting any pupils in changing clothing before and after swimming lessons.

9.3 Special consideration will be taken to ensure that cases of bullying or teasing do not occur.

9.4 Details of any additional arrangements will be recorded in the pupil's Individual Intimate Care Plan.

10. Offsite visits

10.1 Before offsite visits, including residential trips, the pupil's Individual Intimate Care Plan will be amended to include procedures for intimate care whilst off the school premises.

10.2 All pupils with an Intimate Care Plan will have any necessary adjustments to their care reflected within the risk assessments for off-site visits.

10.3 Staff will also apply all the procedures described in this policy during residential and off-site visits.

10.4 Consent from a parent/carers will be obtained and recorded prior to any offsite visit regarding basic adjustments in care.

11. Policy review

11.1 This policy is reviewed every year by the headteacher and school governors.

11.2 The scheduled review date for this policy is September 2027, or earlier where there are changes to legislation, statutory guidance or school procedures.

Record of Intimate Care Intervention

Pupil's name:	Class/year group:
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Name of designated member of staff:	
Date:	Review date:
Area of need	
Equipment required	
Locations of suitable toilet facilities	
Support required	Frequency of support

Working towards independence

Pupil will try to	Designated member of staff will	Parents/carers will	Target achieved date

Signed _____ Parent/carer
 Signed _____ Designated member of staff
 Signed _____ Second member of staff
 Signed _____ Pupil (where appropriate)

Agreement between Pupil and Designated Member of Staff

Pupil's name: _____ Class/year group: _____
 Name of support staff involved: _____

Date: _____

Review date: _____

Support staff

As the designated member of staff helping you with intimate care, you can expect me to do the following:

- When I am the identified person, I will stop what I am doing to help you. I will avoid all unnecessary delays.
- When you use our agreed emergency signal, I will stop what I am doing and come and help.
- I will treat you with respect and ensure privacy and dignity at all times.
- I will ask permission before touching you or your clothing.
- I will check that you are as comfortable as possible, both physically and emotionally.
- If I am working with a colleague to help you, I will ensure that we talk in a way that does not embarrass you.
- I will listen carefully if there is something you would like to change about your Intimate Care Plan.

Pupil

As the pupil who requires help with intimate care, you can expect me to do the following:

- I will try, whenever possible, to let you know a few minutes in advance that I am going to need help with intimate care, so that you can make yourself available and be prepared to help me.
- I will try to use the toilet at break time, or at the agreed times.
- I will only use the agreed emergency signal for real emergencies.
- I will tell you if I want you to stay in the room or stay with me in the toilet.
- I will tell you straight away if you are doing anything that makes me feel uncomfortable or embarrassed.
- I may talk to other trusted people about how you help me. They too will let you know what I would like to change.

Signed: _____ Designated member of staff

Signed: _____ Pupil