

# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

## Intimate Care Policy

### Rationale

*At St Joseph's members of staff who are responsible for the intimate care of children will undertake their duties in a sensitive and professional manner.*

*At St Joseph's children will be treated with sensitivity and respect when receiving support with intimate care.*

*St Joseph's has written this policy to ensure that best practice and procedures are carried out at the School. This policy complies with the legal requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage statutory framework.*

*St Joseph's defines intimate care as being any activity which involves an invasive procedure which children are unable to do themselves due to age, physical disabilities, special educational needs, medical needs or needs arising from the child's stage of development.' Examples of intimate care include changing nappies, and washing children who have soiled themselves.*

### Procedures for Intimate Care

1. The School will devise Care Plans for children requiring assistance in conjunction with the child's parent and carer. If appropriate the child will be consulted and will be given the opportunity to input into the plan. Staff working with the child will be issued with a copy of the care plan.
2. Care Plans will involve a thorough risk assessment to ascertain the help and support the child requires.
3. **St Joseph's** will ensure that all staff providing intimate care will receive appropriate instruction to enable them to carry out every aspect of the plan respectfully and safely. Maintaining the child's dignity will be at the forefront of every care plan and an integral part of staff training.
4. **St Joseph's** will ensure that the necessary equipment will be available for children with a Care Plan.

# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

5. At **St Joseph's** we will encourage and support children to be as independent as possible to help improve their confidence and self-esteem. Staff will positively encourage children to do as much intimate care for themselves, giving consideration to their age and level of development.
6. **St Joseph's** will communicate with the child requiring intimate care to discuss any needs and maintain respect and dignity to the child.
7. If a child has received some intimate care, parents or carer will be informed as soon as possible. Information will be shared with parents or carer in a sensitive manner and will be kept confidential at all times. Parents/carers will be given a copy of the intimate care record, which they will be required to sign to evidence that the incident has been discussed with them.
8. At **St Joseph's** two members of staff must always be on hand to support an intimate procedure.
9. At **St Joseph's** we will ensure that children's religious beliefs and cultural values will be respected when undertaking intimate care procedures. Parents and carers will be required to highlight any religious or cultural beliefs when formulating an Intimate Care Plan with members of staff.

## Child Protection and Intimate Care

- Child Protection Procedures will be followed by members of staff at the School at all times. Please refer to the Child Protection Policy.
- **St Joseph's** will ensure that personal safety skills are discussed with children if they are of an age and have a level of understanding to comprehend what is being explained.
- Members of staff undertaking intimate care and suspect a Child Protection issue must inform the Headteacher immediately.
- If a child appears distressed or unhappy about any aspect of intimate care the staff member must stop immediately and seek advice from **St Joseph's**. The child's parents or carer will be contacted as soon as possible to discuss how best to proceed and the School may seek advice and support from partner agencies or professionals.

# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

- Any allegations made against staff will be dealt with following the Child Protection Policy and Safeguarding Policy.

## **Medical Needs and Intimate Care**

At ***St Joseph's*** we will do everything possible to ensure that children with medical needs receive the highest quality intimate care.

- Children with medical conditions may require staff to perform invasive or non-invasive medical procedures such as assisting a child with a colostomy bag. These procedures must only be carried out after authorisation has been obtained from the child's parents or carer. A record of the written permission will be retained in the child's file.
- At ***St Joseph's*** any members of staff who undertakes medical interventions will be appropriately trained. Medical procedures must never be carried out by individual staff members who must always ensure that there are two members of staff present.

## **Record Keeping**

At ***St Joseph's*** an Intimate Care Record sheet will be completed every time a child has receives assistance with an aspect of their intimate care.

The Intimate Care Record Sheets will be kept in the school healthcare file and made available to parents or carers upon request to the Headteacher.

## **Disability Equality Impact Assessment**

This policy has been written with reference to and in consideration of the school's Disability Equality Scheme. Assessment will include consideration of issues identified by the involvement of disabled children, staff and parents and any information the school holds on disabled children, staff and parents.

***Any questions or concerns regarding this policy should be made to Mr C Newstead (Head Teacher) or Ms P McIlroy (Deputy Head Teacher).***