

**Marwood Primary School**

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Marwood Primary School

# Intimate Care Policy

Keeping Children & Adults Safe

Reviewed: November 2019 by Gill May

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# Marwood Primary School

## Intimate Care Policy

### 1 Introduction

1.1 Marwood Primary School is committed to ensuring that all staff responsible for the intimate care of children or young people will always undertake their duties in a professional manner. We recognize that there is a need to treat all children/young people with respect when intimate care is given. No child/young person should be attended to in a way that causes distress, embarrassment or pain.

### 2 What is Intimate Care?

2.1 Intimate care is any personal care that most people usually carry out for themselves and could include cleaning up a pupil after they have soiled themselves.

### 3 Our Approach to Best Practice

3.1 The management of all children/young people with intimate care needs will be carefully planned and should be a positive experience for all involved. The child/young person who requires intimate care is always treated with respect; the child's welfare and dignity are of paramount importance.

3.2 Intimate care will only be carried out by school staff who are DBS checked, suitably experienced and, where appropriate, trained to do so (including Safeguarding, Child Protection and Positive handling training) and are fully aware of best practice. No volunteers will be present or permitted to carry out intimate care.

3.3 Suitable equipment and facilities will be provided to assist with children/young people who need special arrangements following assessment from a physiotherapist/ occupational therapist.

3.4 Children/young people will be supported to achieve the highest level of autonomy that is possible given their age and abilities. The expectation is that staff will work within a culture of 'limited touch' and that when physical contact is made with pupils this will be in response to the pupil's needs at the time. It will be of limited duration and will be appropriate given their age, stage of development and background. Staff will ensure each child/young person does as much for him/herself as he/she can. This may mean, for example, giving the child responsibility for washing themselves.

3.5 Individual care plans will be drawn up as appropriate and shared and agreed by the child/young person, where appropriate, and their parents/carers.

3.6 Each child/young person's right to privacy will be respected. Careful consideration will be given to each situation to determine how many carers need to be present when the child/young person is being cared for. Where possible one child will be catered for by one adult unless there is a sound reason for having more adults present e.g. in areas of the school or environment where oversight would be reduced in order to safeguard both the child and adults present.

3.7 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, for example female staff supporting boys when there are no appropriate male staff available.

3.8 Intimate care occurrences will be discussed with parents/carers on a regular basis and recorded by the staff members who carry out the care, in the intimate care record book which is kept on the shelf above the class 1 toilet. The needs and wishes of children/young people and parents will be considered wherever possible within the constraints of staffing and equal opportunities legislation.

#### **4 Safeguarding Children**

4.1 Staff will always adhere to the school Safeguarding policy.

#### **5 Health and Safety**

5.1 The Health and Safety policy and wider guidance will be used in all Intimate Care considerations.

#### **6 Monitoring and Review**

6.1 The Headteacher is responsible for monitoring the implementation, use and effectiveness of this policy and will report on these matters as necessary.

6.2 This policy will be reviewed by the Governing Body every three years and will be added to the document cycle.