



St. Mary's College

Preparatory School

Intimate Care Policy

Date Written: August 2016
Reviewed: September 2023

St Mary's College Preparatory School – The Prep
Intimate Care Policy
(This policy includes EYFS Reception, KS1 and KS2)

This policy has been written in consultation with staff and governors of The Prep and with due regard to the school's mission statement:

Our Mission is to provide an independent Catholic education for boys and girls of all faiths aged 0-18; to provide individual challenge towards holistic and balanced development, service and achievement for life and beyond; and to try to show our Faith by the way we live, showing care and consideration for each other, those around us and the environment.

Statement of Intent

At The Prep we believe that all of our children need contact with familiar carers to ensure they can grow and develop socially and emotionally. At times children need to be cuddled, encouraged, held and offered physical reassurance.

Intimate care can be defined as care tasks of an intimate nature, associated with bodily functions, body products and personal hygiene which demand direct or indirect contact with or exposure of the genitals. Examples include care associated with continence and menstrual management as well as more ordinary tasks such as help with washing or bathing.

Children's dignity will be preserved and a high level of privacy, choice and control will be provided to them. Staff who provide intimate care to children have a high awareness of safeguarding and child protection issues. Staff behaviour is open to scrutiny and staff at The Prep work in partnership with parents/carers to provide continuity of care to children/young people wherever possible.

The Prep 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. The Prep 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.

Our approach to best practice

We aim to fulfil our statement of intent with the following actions:

- All children who require intimate care are treated respectfully at all times; the child's welfare and dignity is of paramount importance.
- Ensuring all staff undertaking intimate care routines have suitably enhanced DBS checks and follow up suitable person checks
- Any staff asked to provide intimate care will be trained to do so (including Safeguarding and Child Protection and Health and Safety training in moving and handling) and be fully aware of best practice.
- Ensuring all new staff, through inductions, are fully aware of all of our school procedures relating to intimate care routines and practice.

In the event of a child needing intimate care the following will apply:

- As a basic principle, children will be supported to achieve the highest level of autonomy that is possible given their age and abilities.
- Staff will encourage each child to do as much for themselves as they can.
- Individual intimate care plans will be drawn up for particular children as appropriate to suit the circumstances of the child. These plans include a full risk assessment to address issues such as moving and handling, personal safety of the child and the carer.
- The Headmaster will be informed when a staff member has undertaken an intimate care routine.

Each child's right to privacy will be respected. If possible only one adult will be present when a child needs help with intimate care. Parents/Guardians will be involved with their child's intimate care arrangements. The school will arrange a meeting with the child's parents to discuss all the relevant information relating to this to enable the staff to care

If a child makes an allegation against a member of staff, all statutory procedures will be followed.

Where the term 'children' is mentioned in this document, it also encompasses young people.

Guidance has been taken from:

Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage 2023

Keeping Children Safe in Education Statutory Guidance September 2023.