



## South Wirral High School Intimate Care Policy



### **Introduction:**

South Wirral High School recognises that when supporting a child with intimate care needs, the child's welfare and dignity is paramount.

No child shall be attended to in a way that causes distress, embarrassment or pain.

We recognise that there is a need for children and young people to be treated with respect when intimate care is given.

This school is committed to ensuring that all staff responsible for intimate care of children and young people will undertake their duties in a professional manner at all times.

This school takes seriously its responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children and young people in its care.

The Governing Body recognises its duties and responsibilities in relation to the Equality Act 2010, which requires that any child with an impairment that affects his/her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities must not be discriminated against. Disabled pupils may be unable to meet their own care needs for a variety of reasons and will require regular support.

Staff will work in close partnership with parents and carers to share information and provide continuity of care.

This school will not ask parents to collect children who have ongoing or occasional intimate care needs in order that their needs should be addressed at home.

### **Definition:**

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

### **Our approach to best practice:**

Approved CMc April 2014

Adopted Personnel Governors 19.5.14 (with one addition – final point on page 2)

Reviewed CMc March 2016

- The management of all children with intimate care needs will be carefully planned.
- Staff who provide intimate care are trained to do so (including Safeguarding, and Moving and Handling where appropriate) and fully aware of best practice.
- Where specialist equipment and facilities above that currently available in the school/setting are required, every effort will be made to provide appropriate facilities in a timely fashion, following assessment by an Occupational Therapist and/or Physiotherapist.
- There is careful communication with any pupil who requires intimate care in line with their preferred means of communication to discuss needs and preferences.
- Staff will be supported to adapt their practice in relation to the needs of individual children taking into account developmental changes such as the onset of puberty and menstruation.
- Pupils will be supported to achieve the highest level of independence possible, according to their individual condition and abilities.
- An Individual Health Care Plan/Intimate Care Plan will be drawn up for any pupil requiring regular intimate care.
- Careful consideration will be given to individual situations to determine how many adults should be present during intimate care procedures. Where possible, one pupil will be cared for by one adult, unless there is a sound reason for having more adults present. In such a case, the reasons will be documented and supported by a risk assessment.
- Intimate care arrangements will be discussed with parents/carers on a regular basis and recorded on the Individual Health Care Plan/Intimate Care Plan.
- Where occasional intimate care is required e.g. toilet accident, and an Individual Health Care Plan/Intimate Care Plan is not in place, the child's needs will be met by school staff and parents/carers will be informed the same day. This information should be treated as protected and communicated accordingly.
- The needs and wishes of children and parents will be taken into account wherever possible, within the constraints of staffing and equal opportunities legislation.
- Wherever possible, a child's intimate care needs will be met by a member of staff the child knows.
- In order to safeguard staff there should be a balance between continuity of care and staffing and the young person's privacy.

## **Safe Guarding:**

The Governors and staff of South Wirral High School recognise that disabled children are particularly vulnerable to all forms of abuse.

The School/Settings Safeguarding Policy & Wirral Local Safeguarding Children Board Multi-Agency Child Protection procedures will be adhered to at all times.

If a member of staff has any concerns about any physical, social, emotional or behavioural changes in a child's presentation (unexplained marks, bruises or soreness for example) s/he will immediately report concerns to the Designated Person for Child Protection.

If a child becomes distressed or unhappy about being cared for by a particular member of staff, the matter will be investigated following the above policies and procedures and outcomes recorded.

If a child makes an allegation about a member of staff, this will be investigated in accordance with agreed procedures.

Parents/carers will be contacted at the earliest appropriate opportunity as part of the safeguarding process. Further advice will be taken from partner agencies.

This policy was adopted by the Governing Body on 19.5.14