



Weston Village Primary School

Intimate Care Policy

Version 1.0

Staff/ Committee involved in development:	Thomas Cutts, Charlotte Armitt
For use by:	Whole School Staff
Policy relates to statutory guidance:	All statutory safeguarding guidance
Key related policies:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safeguarding policy• Health and Safety policy• Policy on supporting pupils with medical conditions• Administration of Medication policy
To be reviewed in the light of operating experience and/or changes in legislation	

Presented to the Leadership and Management Committee on 8th November 2021 and subsequently approved and adopted on the same date

Tim Lloyd, Chair of Leadership and Management Committee

Signature: _____

Date: _____

1. Rationale

At Weston Village Primary School we recognise that all children have different rates of development and differing needs during their time at school. Most children achieve continence before starting full-time school. With the development of more early years' education and the drive towards inclusion, however, there are many more children in mainstream educational establishments who are not fully independent. Some children remain dependent on long term support for personal care, while others progress slowly towards independence. The achievement of continence can be seen as the most important single self-help skill, improving the person's quality of life, independence and self-esteem. The stigma associated with wetting and soiling accidents can cause enormous stress and embarrassment to the children and families concerned. Difficulties with continence severely inhibit a child's inclusion in school and the community. Children with toileting problems who receive support and understanding from those who act in loco parentis are more likely to achieve their full potential. We are committed to ensuring that all pupils are able to access the whole curriculum and are able to be included in all aspects of school life. This includes providing suitable changes of clothing and attending to continence needs of our pupils where necessary.

2. Aims

All children have the right to be safe, to be treated with courtesy, dignity and respect and to be able to access all aspects of the educational curriculum and Weston Village Primary will work to ensure that:

- Intimate care is carried out properly by staff, in line with any agreed plans
- The dignity, rights and wellbeing of children are safeguarded
- Pupils with intimate care difficulties are not discriminated against, in line with the Equalities Act 2010
- Parents are assured that staff are knowledgeable about intimate care and that the needs of their children are taken into account
- Staff carrying out intimate care work do so within guidelines (i.e. health and safety, manual handling, safeguarding protocols awareness) that protect themselves and the pupils involved
- Intimate care refers to any care which involves toileting, washing, changing, touching or carrying out an invasive procedure to children's intimate personal areas.

3. Pupils' Needs

The staff work hard to build effective relationships with the parents and carers of the children attending Weston Village Primary School. Any particular needs that a child may have will be dealt with sensitively and appropriately, working with parents/carers to ensure that each child can access the curriculum. Any child who has personal care or continence needs will be attended to in a designated area within school. Parents will be contacted in

extreme cases where soiling is severe and/or linked to illness eg. sickness and diarrhoea, or when a child refuses to let a member of staff help change their clothing.

4. Care Plans

Where a pupil has particular needs (e.g. wearing nappies or pull-ups regularly, or has continence difficulties which are more frequent than the odd 'accident', staff will work with parents/carers (and health visitors/school nurse, if appropriate) to set out a care plan to ensure that the child is able to attend daily. The written care plan (Appendix 1) will include:

- Who will change the child including back-up arrangements in case of staff absence
- Where changing will take place
- What resources and equipment will be used (cleansing agents used or cream to be applied?) and clarification of who is responsible (parent or school) for the provision of the resources and equipment.
- How the product, if used will be disposed of, or how wet or soiled clothes will be kept until they can be returned to the parent/carer
- What infection control measures are in place
- What the staff member will do if the child is unduly distressed by the experience or if the staff member notices marks or injuries
- Training requirements for staff
- Arrangements for school trips and outings
- Care plan review arrangements

5. Care Plan Agreements

In these circumstances it may be appropriate for the school to set up an agreement that defines the responsibilities that each partner has, and the expectations each has for the other (see Appendix 2). This will include:

5.1 The parent:

- agreeing to ensure that the child is changed at the latest possible time before being brought to the setting/school
- providing the setting/school with spare nappies or pull ups and a change of clothing
- understanding and agreeing the procedures that will be followed when their child is changed at school –including the use of any cleanser or wipes
- agreeing to inform the setting/school should the child have any marks/rash
- agreeing to a 'minimum change' policy i.e. the setting/school would not undertake to change the child more frequently than if s/he were at home.
- Agreeing to review arrangements should this be necessary

5.2 The school:

- agreeing to change the child during a single session should the child soil themselves or become uncomfortably wet
- agreeing how often the child would be changed should the child be staying for the full day
- agreeing to monitor the number of times the child is changed in order to identify progress made

- agreeing to report should the child be distressed, or if marks/rashes are seen
- agreeing to review arrangements should this be necessary.

This kind of agreement should help to avoid misunderstandings that might otherwise arise, and help parents feel confident that the setting/school is taking a holistic view of the child's needs. Should a child with complex continence needs be admitted, the school will consider the possibility of special circumstances and/or provision being made. In such circumstances, an appropriate health care professional (School Nurse or Family Health Visitor) will be closely involved in forward planning.

6. Personal Care Procedures

The staff at Weston Village Primary School will follow agreed procedures (see Appendix 3) when attending to the care or continence needs of any pupil within the setting, whether this be a child with a care plan agreement or a child who has had an occasional 'accident'.

7. Health and Safety Procedures

When dealing with personal care and continence issues, staff will follow agreed health and safety procedures (see Appendix 4) to protect both the child and the member of staff.

8. Child Protection

The normal process of changing continence or wet/soiled clothes should not raise child protection concerns, and there are no regulations that indicate that a second member of staff must be available to supervise the changing process to ensure that abuse does not take place. Few settings/schools will have the staffing resources to provide two members of staff for changing and DBS checks are carried out to ensure the safety of children with staff employed in our school. If there is known risk of false allegation by a child then a single practitioner will not undertake changing. A student on placement will not change a child.

9. Monitoring and Review

- The SENCO, Charlotte Armit, will take responsibility for monitoring that agreed procedures are being followed and are meeting the needs of children and families.
- It is the SENCO's responsibility to ensure that all practitioners follow the school policy.
- Any concerns that staff have about child protection issues will be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Thomas Cutts or Deputy Safeguarding Lead.
- This policy runs alongside other school policies, particularly Safeguarding Children, SEND, and Health and Safety.

Appendix 1:

Weston Village Primary School - Intimate Care Plan

Name of Child :	
Name of person(s) to change the child:	
Name of person(s) to change the child if main adult unavailable:	
Where changing will take place: What resources and equipment will be used:	
Who will provide the resources and equipment that will be used:	
Training requirements for staff:	
Disposal of product in:	
Infection control measures:	
Special arrangements for trips/ outings:	
When will the plan be reviewed:	
Review comments:	

If the child is unduly distressed, a member of staff will contact the parent/carer. *If the above named member of staff is not available due to illness or staff training, then another person, familiar to the child will attend to the child's needs.

SENCO approval: _____ Date:

Parental approval: _____ Date

Appendix 2:

Weston Village Primary School- Intimate Care Plan Agreements

The parent:

- I agree to ensure that the child is changed at the latest possible time before being brought to the setting/school
- I will provide the setting/school with spare nappies or pull ups, wet wipes and a change of clothing
- I understand and agree the procedures that will be followed when my child is changed at school – including the use of any cleanser or wipes
- I agree to inform the setting/school should the child have any marks/rash
- I agree to a 'minimum change' policy i.e. the school will not undertake to change the child more frequently than if s/he were at home.
- I agree to review arrangements should this be necessary

Signed: (parent/carer)

The school:

- We agree to change the child during a single session should the child soil themselves or become uncomfortably wet
- We agree to monitor the number of times the child is changed in order to identify progress made
- We agree to report should the child be distressed, or if marks/rashes are seen
- We agree to review arrangements should this be necessary.

Signed: (school member of staff)

Appendix 3:

Weston Village Primary School- Personal Care Procedures

The staff at Weston Village Primary will follow agreed procedures:

- Change the child's clothing as appropriate, as soon as possible
- Use appropriate cleaning products and adhere to health and safety procedures (see Appendix 4)
- Report any marks or rashes to parents and Head Teacher if appropriate
- Inform parent/carer that a continence issue has arisen during the session via note in diary or face to face conversation
- Contact a parent/carer only where soiling is severe and/or linked to illness eg. sickness and diarrhoea, or when a child refuses to let a member of staff help change their clothing.
- Place a 'Do not enter' sign (visually illustrated) on the toilet door to ensure that privacy and dignity are maintained during the time taken to change the child.

Appendix 4

Weston Village Primary School-Health and Safety Procedures

When dealing with personal care and continence issues, staff will follow agreed health and safety procedures:

- Staff to wear disposable gloves and aprons while dealing with the incident
- Soiled continence product used to be double wrapped, or placed in a hygienic disposal unit (identified bin in disabled toilet) if the number produced each week exceeds that allowed by Health and Safety Executive's limit. Soiled/wet children's clothes to be placed in carrier bag and handed to parents on collection.
- Changing area to be cleaned after use
- Hot water and liquid soap available to wash hands as soon as the task is completed
- Paper towels available for drying hands.