

**Edmund de Moundeford  
Primary School.**

**Intimate Care Policy  
Summer 2024**

# Edmund de Moundeford VC Primary School

## Intimate Care Policy

### **Introduction:**

Edmund de Moundeford VC Primary 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 the children and young people in its care.

The Governing Body recognises its duties and responsibilities in relation to the Disability Discrimination Act 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.

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

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

### **Definition:**

Intimate care is defined as any care which involves intimate care tasks associated with bodily functions, bodily products and personal hygiene. Many children and young people will carry out this care themselves, but some are unable to do. Disabled pupils may be unable to meet their own care needs for a variety of reasons so will require regular support.

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

- The management of all children with **regular** intimate care needs will be carefully planned via a care plan that has been discussed with the parents.
- Where specialist equipment and facilities above that currently available in the school are required, every effort will be made to provide appropriate facilities in a timely fashion, following assessment by a Physiotherapist and/or Occupational Therapist.
- 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
- Whenever intimate care is being carried out this will be done in the disabled toilet if possible. There may be occasions where this is not appropriate, for example if a child is in a state of undress it would not be appropriate to move them to the disabled toilet to provide the care. If this situation arises staff will ensure that this is done sensitively and away from other pupils or additional staff members. Careful consideration will be given to individual situations to determine how many adults should be present during the intimate care procedures. One pupil will be cared for by one adult unless there is a sound reason for having more adults present, however, another adult will stand outside the disabled toilet in order to

protect the child and adult involved in intimate care. The door will be left slightly ajar so that the adult standing outside can listen and observe if needed. In a case where more than one adult is required to provide intimate care the reasons will be documented on the child's care plan.

- Where a child requires intimate care but refuses to comply the school will inform the parents/guardians so that they can decide whether or not to come into school to deal with their child's personal needs or decide to leave them as they are until the end of the school day. The school will not use force to provide intimate care against a child's wishes. In the meantime we will continue to try to encourage the child to cooperate.

### **Child Protection:**

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

If a child becomes distressed or unhappy about being cared for by a particular member of staff, the matter will be investigated by the Senior Designated Professional, Headteacher or LA depending on the issue concerned and outcomes recorded. Parents/carers will be contacted at the earliest opportunity as part of the process of reaching a resolution.

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