

Intimate Care Policy

Henry David Learning

Woodfield School



August 2024 – August 2026

Contents:

Statement of intent

1. Legal framework
2. Definitions
3. Health and safety
4. Staff and facilities
5. School responsibilities
6. Safeguarding
7. Swimming
8. Monitoring and review

Statement of intent

Woodfield School takes the health and wellbeing of its pupils very seriously. As described in the Medical Conditions Policy, the school aims to support pupils with physical disabilities and illnesses to enable them to have a full and rich academic life whilst at school.

The proprietary body recognises its duties and responsibilities in relation to the Equality Act 2010, which states that any pupil with an impairment affecting their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities must not be discriminated against.

Pupils will always be treated with care, sensitivity and respect when intimate care is given, and no pupil will be left feeling embarrassed or as if they have created a problem.

1. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Children and Families Act 2014
- Education Act 2011
- Health Act 2006
- Equality Act 2010
- DfE (2024) 'Keeping children safe in education'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Health and Safety Policy
- Medical Conditions Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Whistleblowing Policy

2. Definitions

For this policy, **intimate care** is defined as any care which may involve the following:

- Washing
- Touching
- Carrying out an invasive procedure
- Changing a child who has soiled themselves
- Providing oral care
- Feeding
- Assisting in toilet issues
- Providing comfort to an upset or distressed pupil

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

Examples of intimate care include support with dressing and undressing (underwear), menstrual hygiene, helping someone use the toilet, or washing intimate parts of the body.

Pupils may be unable to meet their own care needs for a variety of reasons and will require regular support.

The provision of personal care will always be deemed to be **regulated activity** regardless of frequency and whether they are supervised or not.

3. Health and safety

The Health and Safety Policy lays out specific requirements for cleaning and hygiene, including how to deal with spillages, vomit and other bodily fluids.

Staff will wear disposable gloves while assisting a pupil in the toilet.

The changing area or toilet will be left clean. Hot water and soap will be available to wash hands. Paper towels will be available to dry hands.

4. Staff and facilities

Staff members who provide intimate care will be made aware of what is considered good practice.

Staff will only be required to administer intimate care if a child in their care has an accident or needs support.

5. School responsibilities

The privacy and dignity of any pupil who requires intimate care will always be respected. A member of staff will change the pupil or assist them in changing themselves if they become wet, or soil themselves. Any pupil with wet or soiled clothing will be assisted in cleaning themselves and will be given spare clothing as provided by the parents.

Members of staff will react to accidents in a calm and sympathetic manner. Accurate records of times, staff, and any other details of incidents of intimate care will be kept on Arbor under Pastoral intervention

Parents will be contacted if the pupil refuses to be changed or becomes distressed during the process.

Excellent standards of hygiene will be always maintained when carrying out intimate care.

6. Safeguarding

Staff members working directly with children will receive safeguarding training as part of their mandatory induction, in line with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

Intimate care is a regulated activity; therefore, only members of staff who have an enhanced DBS certificate with a barred list check are permitted to undertake intimate care duties.

Each pupil's right to privacy will be respected.

If any member of staff has concerns about physical changes to a pupil's presentation, such as marks or bruises, they will report the concerns to the Lead DSL immediately.

Special consideration will be taken to ensure that bullying and teasing does not occur.

7. Swimming

Pupils in Lower School regularly participate in swimming lessons at local leisure centres such as Pingles in Enderby. During these lessons, pupils are entitled to privacy when changing; however, some pupils will need to be supervised during changing.

Parental consent will be obtained before assisting any pupils in changing clothing before and after swimming lessons.

8. Monitoring and review

This policy is reviewed every two years by the principal and the DSL.

All changes are communicated to relevant stakeholders.

The scheduled review date for this policy is August 2026.