Wheldrake with Thorganby Primary School

Intimate Care Policy

Approved: Autumn 2026

Review date: Autumn 2029

At Wheldrake with Thorganby our vision is to nurture a community where we love and encourage each other as we would ourselves, leading to a safe and inspiring environment where every person can thrive academically, socially, and spiritually.

'Love your neighbour as yourselves.' Matthew 22:39
'Let us encourage one another.' Hebrews 10:25

1. Introduction

1.1 The 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.

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

1.3 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.

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

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

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

2. Definition

2.1 Intimate care is defined as any care which involves washing, touching or carrying out an invasive procedure that most children and young people carry out for themselves, but which some are unable to do. Disabled pupils/students may be unable to meet their own care needs for a variety of reasons and will require regular support.

3. Our approach to best practice

3.1 The management of all children with intimate care needs will be carefully planned.

3.2 Staff who provide intimate care are trained to do so (including Child Protection, and Moving and Handling where appropriate) and fully aware of best practice.

3.3 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.

3.4 There is careful communication with any pupil/student who requires intimate care in line with their preferred means of communication to discuss needs and preferences.

3.5 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.

3.6 Pupils/students will be supported to achieve the highest level of independence possible, according to their individual condition and abilities.

3.7 Individual care plans will be drawn up for any pupil/student requiring regular intimate care, outside of those children where this would be a regular age related need.

3.8 Careful consideration will be given to individual situations to determine how many adults should be present during intimate care procedures. Where possible one pupil /student 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.

3.9 Intimate care arrangements will be discussed with parents/carers on a regular basis and recorded on the care plan.

3.10 The needs and wishes of children and parents will be taken into account wherever possible, within the constraints of staffing and equal opportunities legislation.

3.11 Where a care plan is not in place and a child has needed help with intimate care then parents/carers will be informed within 24 hours. This information should be treated as confidential and communicated in person, via telephone or email.

3.12 Parents/carers will be responsible for ensuring the school has a supply of specific nappies, wipes, nappy bags and a change of clothes.
Staff have access to equipment needed such as disposable gloves and follow school health and safety procedures.

4. Child Protection

4.1 The Governors and staff of the school recognise that disabled children are particularly vulnerable to all forms of abuse.

4.2 Child Protection and Multi-Agency Child Protection procedures will be adhered to at all times.

4.3 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 Designated Senior Lead for Child Protection.

4.4 If a child becomes distressed or unhappy about being cared for by a particular member of staff, the matter will be investigated at an appropriate level and outcomes recorded.

4.5 Parents/carers will be contacted at the earliest opportunity as part of the process of reaching a resolution. Further advice will be taken from partner agencies.

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

This policy was adopted by the Governing Body/Trust Board in September 2026

It will be reviewed January 2029