

Intimate Care Policy  
(Linked with Safeguarding Policy)

# St Philip's Catholic Primary School



**ST PHILIP'S**  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

*In accordance with our Mission Statement*

*'Learning and working together through Christ'*

Date: September 2023

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## INTRODUCTION

At St Philip's Catholic Primary School, we understand that children are at different development stages and unless there are any medical or developmental reasons why this would not be appropriate, we work in partnerships with parents to support children towards independent toilet training.

As a school, we aim to be inclusive to all children and to give consideration to the individual needs of each child. We see toilet training as a self-care skill that all children should have the opportunity to learn through the full support of adults.

The policy will be used when supporting children requiring nappy changing and other related personal care tasks. It has been written to ensure that best practice is always carried out and that procedures followed, comply with the legal requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework

At every stage the child should be treated with dignity in recognition that they are a child of God and in response to our vocation to care for him/her.

### Aims

- To ensure that children in our care are comfortable and happy at all times.
- To safeguard the rights and promote the welfare of children.
- To provide guidance and reassurance to staff who are required to change children.
- To assure parents/carers that staff are knowledgeable about personal care and that their child's individual needs are taken into account.
- To protect children from discrimination and ensure the inclusion of all.

### Basic Principles

At St Philip's Catholic Primary School, staff will follow key principles when changing a child's nappy:

- Children have the right to feel safe and secure
- Children will be respected and valued as individuals
- Children have the right to privacy/dignity - In order to promote and develop greater independence, children need to be supported in their understanding of toileting procedures.

To ensure children are comfortable and happy, nappies will be checked at regular intervals and promptly changed when required (i.e. when wet or soiled).

### Vulnerability to abuse

As a Primary School and Pre-School we ensure that all staff are familiar with our Safeguarding Policy as well as our procedures to help develop each child's resilience and protect them from any form of abuse.

It is important that children are changed in a reassuring and caring way by staff. It is important that we signal our intention to change a child's nappy before doing so, ensuring that the child understands and anticipates what is going to happen, as appropriate to their level of development. This might be a familiar word or picture symbol. This helps give children the important message that not just anyone can pick them up, take them off and undress them.

Staff should always change children in the nappy-changing area or suitable environment. Staff will wear appropriate PPE to support and ensure that a high standard of health and safety is adhered to. While allowing for privacy, these areas are not locked. This is part of making sure that there is a culture of openness which safeguards children and ensures all adults follow safe working practices.

### Working with Parents/Carers

- We will work with parents/carers when developing a child's nappy changing / pull up / toilet training routine.
- We will tell you the names of the staff who will change your child's nappy.
- Where parents/carers are present, e.g. during the settling in period, they will be asked to change their child's nappy.
- If a child has any disability or medical need that may affect their personal care routine, a Health Care Plan will be drawn up in agreement with parents/carers.
- Parents will be asked when their child first starts at St Philip's Catholic Primary School, whether or not they have any particular needs or any special words or actions, used during their nappy changing procedure.
- Any significant observations made during a nappy changing procedure will be notified to the parents/carers at the end of the session (i.e. badly soiled nappy/strong urine etc.)
- If a child is unduly distressed about having their nappy changed, parents/carers will be contacted to discuss the matter and a plan will be put into place.

### Protection for Staff

Nappy changing procedures will be carried out by a member of staff who has been DBS checked. Protection for that person will be undertaken in the following ways;

- Staff will be trained in good working practices which comply with Health and Safety regulations.
- Staff will discreetly inform other members of staff that they are taking a child to change.
- Each instance of intimate care will be recorded by the adult completing it.

Details will include:

- o What personal tasks were carried out
- o By whom
- o The time and date it was completed

- If a situation occurs that causes a member of staff concern, a second member of staff will be called and the incident reported to the line manager and recorded.
- Where staff are concerned about a child's actions or comments, whilst carrying out a personal care procedure, this will be recorded and discussed with St Philip's Catholic Primary School designated safeguarding lead (DSL) immediately.
- Staff will be specifically trained in the area of Intimate/Personal care for children with specific needs.
- To ensure the safe moving and handling of children, children will use steps to independently climb on to the changing area, with support provided if required.

### Changing procedures followed by staff:

1. Prepare the changing mat by cleaning it with antibacterial spray.
2. Ensure the following items are ready before changing a child's nappy; clean nappy, wipes and nappy cream if required. (NB – where cream is used, the child should have their own named cream and written permission obtained from the parent).
3. Approach the child and say or sign that it is time for a nappy change. Sometimes the child will tell you when their nappy needs changing.
4. Put on a pair of disposal gloves and a disposal apron (NB – staff must put on a fresh pair of gloves and fresh apron for every child that has had a nappy changed).
5. Support the child on to the nappy changing unit using the steps.
6. Remove the child's clothing to access the nappy. Try to encourage the child to help as much as possible.
7. The staff member will then remove the child's nappy and clean the area, always from front to back using wipes and cream provided by parents/carers. The staff member must ensure the child is clean and comfortable by putting on a clean nappy and if required, a clean set of clothes.
8. If the child's clothes are soiled, they should be bagged separately and sent home, they should not be rinsed by hand.
9. All nappies whether wet or soiled should be placed into nappy bags provided by the parents/carers and sent home.
10. The staff member must then place the used gloves and used apron in the bin provided and wash their hands with liquid antibacterial soap and running water and dry them on a disposable paper towel.
11. Clean the nappy changing mat, surrounding area and underneath the mat with antibacterial spray before leaving to dry.

### Toilet Trained/Training

- If a child is old enough to meet his own toileting needs, the staff member can support the child according to age and ability, to use a toilet, ensuring that they are comfortable, clean and dry and have washed their hands afterwards.
- When supporting a child that needs to be changed, the staff member will follow the points in the Changing Procedures section.

## Parental Responsibilities

St Philip's Catholic Primary School, we work in partnership with parents/carers and ask them to assist us by ensuring the following:

- Parents/carers understand and agree the procedures that will be followed when their child is changed at St Philip's Catholic Primary School,
- Parents/carers must sign a consent form granting permission for their child's nappy to be changed. (Appendix 1)
- Parents/carers must provide pull-ups, nappies, nappy sacks, wipes, plenty of spare clothes and sundries that will be used and applied as necessary. It is the responsibility of parents/carers at the end of each session, when your child's bag comes home, to ensure their child has plenty of nappy changing provisions (nappies, nappy sacks, and nappy rash cream) and several complete changes of clothing, in preparation for their next session.
- Parents/carers understand that they will be asked to collect their child from St Philip's Catholic Primary School, if their child shows symptoms of illness or indications of ill health.

## Appendix 1

### Nappy Changing, Pull-Up and Pants: Clothes Changing Agreement

In order to best meet the needs of your children when they are with us we would like to set up an individual agreement between parents/carers and the school with regard to intimate care.

Intimate care is any care which involves washing, touching or carrying out an invasive procedure which children are unable to do for themselves, arising from the child's stage of development. Intimate care may involve helping with drinking, eating, dressing, toileting or comforting.

In most cases at school intimate care will involve procedures to do with personal hygiene.

Staff at St Philip's Catholic Primary School, providing intimate care are aware of the need to adhere to good Child Protection practice in order to minimise the risks for both children and themselves.

All staff are supported and trained so that they feel confident in their practice.

Name of Child \_\_\_\_\_

- I have read the responsibilities and procedures outlined in this policy and risk assessment.
- I understand that if my child cannot be wiped / cleaned, it may be necessary to call the parents to collect your child.
- I understand I will be informed at the end of the day if and when my child has been changed and the reason / action needed.
- I understand if my child has diarrhoea I will be contacted to collect them from school/preschool.
- I give permission St Philip's Catholic Primary School to provide appropriate intimate care to my child.
- I understand that this will be carried out by a member St Philip's Catholic Primary School.
- I understand that staff of St Philip's Catholic Primary School have a duty of care to report any concerns they may have under our safeguarding policy

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Carer

Date \_\_\_\_\_