

Southwick Primary School
Toileting and Intimate Care Policy



“Do everything in love” – 1 Corinthians 16:14

1. Policy Statement and Christian Vision

At Southwick Primary School, we believe every child is made in the image of God and deserves to be treated with dignity, respect, compassion and love at all times. Our approach to toileting and intimate care is guided by our Christian vision and the biblical principle:

“Do everything in love.” (1 Corinthians 16:14)

We recognise that supporting children with toileting and intimate care is a sensitive and personal matter. We are committed to ensuring that such care is carried out in a way that is safe, respectful, child-centred and rooted in kindness, promoting children’s emotional and physical wellbeing and their growing independence.

2. Aims of the Policy

This policy aims to:

- Safeguard the welfare, dignity and rights of all children
- Ensure all children feel safe, valued and respected
- Promote independence and confidence wherever possible
- Provide clear guidance for staff and reassurance for parents/carers
- Ensure intimate care is delivered with compassion, patience and love
- Protect both children and staff through consistent, transparent procedures

3. Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to:

- All children at Southwick Primary School
- All staff, including teachers, teaching assistants, support staff and supply staff
- Volunteers and students, who must not provide intimate care

It covers:

- Toileting assistance
- Personal hygiene support
- Support following accidents (wetting or soiling)
- Care related to medical needs or disabilities

4. Promoting Independence

We believe that encouraging independence is a key part of children's development and self-esteem.

- Children are encouraged to manage their own toileting needs wherever developmentally appropriate
- Staff provide gentle encouragement and practical support, not pressure
- Achievements in independence are celebrated positively
- Children are never rushed, shamed, or compared to others

All support is offered in love, recognising that each child develops at their own pace.

5. Intimate Care: Principles and Practice

When intimate care is required, staff will ensure that:

- The child's privacy and dignity are respected at all times
- Care is explained clearly and calmly to the child before it begins
- The child's wishes and feelings are listened to and valued
- Only appropriate, agreed adults provide care
- Language used is kind, reassuring and age-appropriate

- The child is treated with patience, compassion and understanding

No child will ever be made to feel embarrassed, uncomfortable, or “in trouble” for needing support.

6. Staff Responsibilities

- Intimate care will only be carried out by staff who have been appropriately briefed
- Staff will follow the school’s safeguarding and code of conduct policies at all times
- Wherever possible, another adult will be aware that intimate care is taking place
- Staff will not take photographs or use personal mobile phones during intimate care
- Any concerns arising during intimate care must be reported immediately to the DSL

7. Working in Partnership with Parents and Carers

We value strong, trusting relationships with our families.

- Parents will be informed if regular or ongoing intimate care support is required
- Individual Intimate Care Plans will be drawn up where necessary
- Parents will be consulted regarding routines, products and preferences
- We will always communicate with honesty, sensitivity and respect

Our partnership is built on a shared desire to support each child with compassion and dignity.

8. Supporting Children with Medical or Additional Needs

For children with SEND or medical conditions:

- An agreed Intimate Care Plan will be in place
- Staff will be trained where necessary
- Care will be consistent, predictable and supportive
- The child’s voice will be included wherever possible

We seek to reflect Christ’s love by ensuring that **every child is included and cared for well**, regardless of need.

9. Accidents and Soiling Incidents

Accidents are treated as a normal part of childhood development.

- Children will be reassured calmly and discreetly
- Wet or soiled clothing will be changed promptly and sensitively
- Parents will be informed appropriately
- Accidents will never be a cause for punishment or embarrassment

“Be kind and compassionate to one another.” (Ephesians 4:32)

10. Safeguarding and Child Protection

Safeguarding is paramount.

- All intimate care is carried out in line with the school’s Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Any disclosure or concern is reported immediately to the DSL
- Staff are vigilant to signs of distress, discomfort or safeguarding concerns

By acting in love and integrity, we protect both children and adults.

11. Training and Support for Staff

- Staff will receive appropriate guidance and training
- Staff wellbeing is recognised and supported
- No member of staff will be expected to carry out intimate care without support

12. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed:

- Annually
- In response to changes in guidance or school practice

Reviewed by: David Cook

Approved by Governing Body: May 2026

Next Review Date: May 2028