

# DUNTON & WRESTLINGWORTH CHURCH OF ENGLAND (VC) LOWER SCHOOLS

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<b>Document Information : INTIMATE CARE POLICY</b>			
<b>Policy Number:</b>	Version 1		
<b>Reviewed by:</b>	Headteacher	<b>Responsibility:</b>	FGB
<b>Last Review:</b>	Jan 2018	<b>Received by FGB:</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> March 2018
<b>Review Cycle:</b>	2 Year	<b>Next Review:</b>	Jan 2020

<b>Document Modification Record</b>			
Revision	Description	Date	Name

<b>Documents Linked to this Policy:</b>
Child Protection Policy and Procedures

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## **Introduction:**

Dunton and Wrestlingworth Church of England VC Lower Schools Federation 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. Staff will work in close partnership with parents and carers to share information and provide continuity of care.

## **Definition:**

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 may be unable to meet their own care needs for a variety of reasons and will require regular support. Our approach to best practice:

- The management of all children with intimate care needs will be carefully planned
- There will be careful communication with any pupil who requires intimate care in line with their preferred means of communication to discuss needs and preferences
- 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
- Individual care plans will be drawn up for any pupil requiring regular intimate care
- Careful consideration will be given to individual situations to determine how many adults should be present during intimate care procedures. Where possible one pupil 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
- Intimate care arrangements will be discussed with parents/carers on a regular basis and recorded on the care plan
- The needs and wishes of children and parents will be taken into account wherever possible, within the constraints of staffing and equal opportunities legislation

General need and younger children:

Where a care plan is not in place and a child needs help with intimate care (in the case of a toilet 'accident') then parents/carers will be informed the same day. This information should be treated as confidential.

- Wherever possible a child shall get changed themselves within a toilet with adult waiting outside

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- If this is not possible an adult will support, ensuring that another member of staff is nearby and is aware of what is happening
- IN ALL CASES – if a child has needed to be changed or has got themselves changed their parent / carer must be informed

## **Child Protection:**

The Governors and staff of Dunton and Wrestlingworth Church of England VC Lower Schools Federation recognise that disabled children are particularly vulnerable to all forms of abuse. Child Protection and Multi-Agency Child Protection procedures will be adhered to at all times. 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 Safeguarding Lead (Nancy Sheehan) or Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads ( Emily Argent and Susan Watts)