



Churchill Park Academy – Intimate Care Policy

1. Introduction

Churchill Park Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare, dignity, and rights of all children and young people in its care. All staff involved in providing intimate care will carry out their duties professionally, sensitively, and in line with current legislation and best practice.

The Governing Body acknowledges its responsibilities under the **Equality Act 2010** to ensure that no child is treated less favourably due to disability, medical condition, or additional need. Children must be treated with respect and dignity during all intimate care routines.

The Academy recognises that:

- Children and young people have the right to feel safe and comfortable.
- Intimate care must be provided in a way that promotes privacy, independence, and inclusion.
- Staff and families must work in partnership to ensure continuity and consistency of care.

No child will be attended to in a manner that causes embarrassment, distress, or pain.

2. Definition of Intimate Care

Intimate care involves tasks of a personal nature that most children can carry out for themselves, such as:

- Washing
- Dressing
- Toileting
- Supervision of menstrual hygiene
- Support with continence needs
- Changing incontinence pads or managing stoma/catheter care
- Application of prescribed creams

Children and young people with disabilities or medical conditions may need support in these areas due to physical, sensory, or learning needs.



3. Our Approach to Best Practice

Churchill Park Academy ensures that:

Best Practice Area	Implementation
Planning	All pupils with intimate care needs have an individual care plan developed with input from parents/carers and, where appropriate, healthcare professionals.
Training	Staff receive relevant training including Child Protection, Moving and Handling, and medical/health care procedures. Training is regularly updated.
Communication	Pupil voice is central. Staff communicate with pupils using their preferred method (e.g., speech, signing, symbols) to explain procedures and ensure consent and comfort.
Dignity and Independence	Pupils are supported to achieve the highest level of independence possible. Staff respond sensitively to changes such as puberty or menstruation.
Supervision	Wherever possible, one adult will support one pupil. If more adults are needed, this is documented and justified. Gender preferences are respected where practical.
Facilities	Suitable, private and accessible facilities are available and kept clean. Specialist equipment is provided following assessment by therapists.
Parental Engagement	Parents/carers are fully involved in care planning. Where no care plan exists (e.g., one-off incidents), parents are informed on the same day in a confidential and respectful manner.
Record Keeping	All intimate care interactions are recorded, including time, staff involved, and any observations of concern. Care plans are regularly reviewed.

4. Safeguarding and Child Protection

Churchill Park Academy recognises that children with disabilities may be more vulnerable to abuse. All intimate care is delivered in line with the **school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy**.

Key safeguarding considerations:

- Any concerns (e.g., unexplained marks, bruises, or changes in behaviour) must be immediately reported to the **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)**.
- Staff must remain vigilant and ensure procedures are consistent with **Keeping Children Safe in Education (2024)**.
- If a pupil becomes distressed or expresses discomfort with a particular staff member, this must be reported, investigated, and recorded. Parents/carers will be informed, and appropriate support provided.
- Allegations against staff will be addressed in line with the **Allegations Management Policy** and reported to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) as required.



5. Key Legal Framework and Guidance

This policy is underpinned by the following legislation and guidance:

- **Equality Act 2010**
- **Children and Families Act 2014**
- **SEND Code of Practice (2015)**
- **The Children Act 1989/2004**
- **Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE, 2024)**
- **Working Together to Safeguard Children (DfE, 2023)**
- **Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions (DfE, 2015)**

6. Review and Monitoring

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years or sooner if required due to changes in legislation or school practice. The effectiveness of this policy will be monitored through safeguarding audits, training updates, and feedback from pupils, parents, and staff.

Person responsible for the Policy	Headteacher
Date last reviewed	July 2025
Review Date	July 2026
Is this Policy to appear on the school website	Yes