

# Intimate Care Policy

## 2022

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**Updated:** December 2022

**Approved:** By KL/SLT

**Date Approved:**

**Reviewed:** 2 years

**Lead Responsible:** Ruth Knight/Michelle Harvey

### **Introduction:**

Bilborough College 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 college 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 Equality Act 2010 which requires that any young person with an impairment that affects their 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 young person 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 students 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 young people with intimate care needs will be carefully planned.
- 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.
- Where specialist equipment and facilities above those currently available in the college are required, every effort will be made to provide appropriate facilities in a timely fashion, following assessment by a Physiotherapist and/or Occupational Therapist.
- There is careful communication with any student 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 young people, taking into account developmental changes such as puberty and menstruation.
- Students 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 student 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 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.

- Intimate care arrangements will be discussed with parents/carers on a regular basis and recorded on the care plan
- The needs and wishes of young people and parents will be taken into account wherever possible, within the constraints of staffing and equal opportunities legislation

### **Child Protection:**

The Governors and staff of Bilborough College recognise that disabled young people 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 young person's presentation (unexplained marks, bruises or soreness for example) they will immediately report concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

If a young person 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.

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.

If a young person makes an allegation about a member of staff, this will be investigated in accordance with agreed procedures.

This policy was adopted by the College on 19/12/22

It will be reviewed on 19/12/24