



# Intimate Care Policy

Approved by: Pupil Wellbeing Committee

Signed... Mrs K Gillespie

Date: - ...14<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Review date: November 2024

*This policy extends past school to Post16 and will be reviewed in line with the changing curriculum and current needs of the pupils.*

*Where in the policy it says Stone Hill School, we are referring to Stone Hill School and Post16.*

## **Rationale**

Stone Hill School is responsible for the care of children with learning and physical disabilities who have an increased dependency on carers for a primary level of care, and who may therefore require practical support with their intimate care needs at school.

We have defined Intimate Care as direct care of the child in terms of any personal care activity a child would normally be able to do for him/her self. These needs are no different from the needs of a child who is not disabled but we need to flag up the notion that there are differences in the nature, method and principles of fulfilling those needs.

Intimate care is a high risk activity in terms of abuse, and it is particularly important that there are guidelines to protect both those being cared for and the staff who care for the children's needs. We take the view that everyone is safer if expectations are clear and approaches are as consistent as possible.

The staff of Stone Hill School has recognised the need to design guidelines which encompass all aspects of our procedures. They apply to every member of staff involved with the intimate care of the children and they aim to support good practice.

Therefore, our guidelines have the following goals:

- To outline good practice during intimate care tasks so we can distinguish between good and poor care practice.
- To protect the children and the staff who are asked to carry out intimate care tasks.
- To outline a system that works effectively for the child, ensuring a consistent approach is undertaken, and that approaches to intimate care are not markedly different between individuals.

## **GUIDELINES**

### **1. Children and their parents or carers should have confidence in the staff:**

All staff involved in Intimate Care routines will have been police checked and will receive appropriate training to carry out this aspect of their work. This policy will be published on the school website. Parents or Carers will be offered an opportunity to discuss their child's needs with an appropriate member of staff:

### **2. Carers should be aware of the abilities of the child:**

The child should be enabled and encouraged, as far as is reasonably possible, to contribute to his/her own intimate care.

### **3. Ensure privacy, appropriate to the child's age and gender:**

The school takes the view that the issue of privacy is important. All intimate care tasks are carried out by at least two people.

### **4. Children have the right to be respected.**

Respect for the child's body and integrity should be included in all care procedures. Ideally someone with integrity who has a positive long-term relationship with the child should carry out intimate tasks. New staff members should get to know the children in the classroom context before getting involved with intimate Care tasks.

### **5. A strong focus should be evident on choice and decision making skills:**

Wherever appropriate, decision-making on the part of the child should be an integral part of the process – e.g. Do you want the toilet or not? Can I help fasten your trousers?

### **6. Pupils will be prepared and involved in what is going to happen:**

Staff will raise the child's awareness of the process. Objects of reference, symbols, signs, gesture and verbal explanation will be given as appropriate.

### **7. Intimate care tasks are not an interruption to the timetable:**

These practices should be valued as part of each child's essential curriculum. They are opportunities to develop independent and age appropriate skills, increase dignity and raise self-esteem.

**8. Never do any task unless you are confident in your ability to do it.**

Never guess; ask a colleague to help.

**9. If you are concerned – report it.**

Intimate care tasks should never be approached lightheartedly. If a child has soreness or something to cause you concern, follow School's Safeguarding Procedures.

**10. Health and safety issues**

Barrier materials will always be used i.e. disposable gloves (latex free).

**RESOURCES**

School will seek parental views on practices at home. Taking cognisance of this, preferred materials will be used and Parents/Carers will be encouraged to resource their child's needs wherever possible.