



Coronavirus (COVID_19) Addendum: Intimate Care Policy

This addendum reflects the announcements made by the Department of Education (DfE) and will be reviewed and regularly updated in line with Local Authority and National COVID-19 guidance. This document seeks to clarify practice around intimate care for pupils in St Clare's Catholic Primary School and should be read alongside the Intimate Care, Behaviour and other relevant school safeguarding policies.

Statutory and best practice guidance

The DfE recognises that it is important for schools to prevent and control infection, including the use of PPE in education settings during the coronavirus outbreak. They have provided a number of guidance's for schools, as listed below, which we have regard to when producing this addendum:

- [COVID-19 Planning guide for primary schools](#)
- [COVID-19 Safe working in education, childcare and children's social care](#)
- [COVID-19 Cleaning of non-healthcare settings](#)
- [COVID-19 Planning for early years and childcare settings](#)
- [COVID-19 Implementing protective measure in education and childcare settings](#)
- [How to put PPE on and take it off safely](#)

Aims

St Clare's Catholic Primary School has an effective Intimate Care Policy which reflects the usual practices of the school. This addendum serves to reflect the adaptations of our provision to meet the current coronavirus outbreak.

Transmission of coronavirus

Transmission of coronavirus mainly occurs via respiratory droplets generated during breathing, talking, coughing and sneezing. These droplets can directly infect the respiratory tracts of other people if there is close contact. They also infect others indirectly. This happens when the droplets get onto and contaminate surfaces which are then touched and introduced into the mouth or eyes of an uninfected person. Another route of transmission is via aerosols (extremely small droplets), but this is only relevant to medical procedures for a very small number of children in education settings.

Preventing the spread of coronavirus involves preventing:

- direct transmission, for instance, when in close contact with those sneezing and coughing
- indirect transmission, for instance, touching contaminated surfaces

Personal protective equipment (PPE)

The majority of staff in school will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work, even if they are not always able to maintain distance of 2 metres from others.

PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases:

- pupils whose care routinely already involves the use of PPE due to their intimate care needs will continue to receive their care in the same way

- PPE will be worn if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained from any pupil displaying coronavirus symptoms

PPE may be required in specific situations

Reference to PPE in the following situations means:

- fluid-resistant surgical face masks
- disposable gloves
- disposable plastic aprons
- oversleeves
- overshoes
- eye protection (for example a face visor or goggles)

Where PPE is recommended, this means that:

- a facemask should be worn if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained from someone with symptoms of coronavirus
- if contact is necessary, then gloves, an apron and a facemask should be worn
- if a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of fluids entering the eye from, for example, coughing, spitting or vomiting, then eye protection should also be worn

When PPE is used, it is essential that it is used properly. This includes scrupulous hand hygiene and following guidance on [how to put PPE on and take it off safely](#) in order to reduce self-contamination.

Face masks must:

- cover both nose and mouth
- not be allowed to dangle around the neck
- not be touched once put on, except when carefully removed before disposal
- be changed when they become moist or damaged
- be worn once and then discarded - hands must be cleaned after disposal

Pupils with complex medical needs

There are a small number of medical procedures which increase the risk of transmission through aerosols (tiny droplets) being transferred from the patient to the care giver. These are known as aerosol generating procedures (AGPs). Within school these are only undertaken for a very small number of children with complex medical needs, such as those receiving tracheostomy care.

Staff performing AGPs follow Public Health England's [personal protective equipment \(PPE\) guidance on aerosol generating procedures](#), and wear the correct PPE which is:

- a FFP2/3 respirator
- gloves
- a long-sleeved fluid repellent gown
- eye protection

The respirator required for AGPs will be fitted correctly (known as 'fit testing') by an individual trained to do this.

PPE involving changing nappies or general care for babies

Staff will follow the school's normal practice when changing nappies and caring for babies more generally, provided the child is not showing symptoms of coronavirus. This includes continuing to use the PPE that

they would normally wear in these situations, for example aprons and gloves. If a pupil shows symptoms, they should not attend a childcare setting and should be at home.

Social distancing and intimate care

- pupils' intimate care plans will be reviewed in the light of Covid-19 in order to ensure they follow the best possible guidance, give advice on appropriate PPE and apply principles of social distancing wherever possible
- parents and pupils will be fully briefed and asked to agree any changes made to their child's intimate care plan
- all staff carrying out intimate care duties will be trained as appropriate in the correct procedures to use in order to maximise their protection and minimise the risks involved
- where possible, pupils will be encouraged to independently fulfil their own intimate care needs, under the supervision of staff
- where possible, one assigned member of staff will work with each child requiring intimate care
- staff carrying out or assisting with intimate care needs will wear appropriate PPE at all times
- moving and handling of pupils will be carefully planned for during times of high Covid-19 incidence and appropriate steps taken to minimise any identified risk. This includes the identification of the appropriate PPE to be used while these processes are carried out and careful planning to minimise physical contact where possible

Dealing with body fluids

Urine, faeces, blood and vomit should be cleaned up immediately and disposed of safely, following agreed guidance. When dealing with body fluids, staff will wear personal protective clothing (disposal plastic gloves and aprons) wash themselves thoroughly and in line with guidance afterward. Soiled children's clothing will be bagged to go home or (with parent's permission) correctly disposed of. Children will be kept away from the affected area until the incident has been completely dealt with. All staff will maintain high standards of personal hygiene and will take all practicable steps to prevent and control the spread of infection.

Unacceptable practice

It is unacceptable to carry out tasks without using the planned for PPE or appropriate procedures. This puts pupils, staff and other members of the school at unnecessary risk.

Review and adaption

The safety of pupils and staff is our utmost priority. Therefore, St Clare's Catholic Primary School will look to adhere to the published guidance as stated above.

Leaders will keep the arrangements detailed in this addendum and risk assessments under constant review. Any required updates or amendments will be made as required and will be clearly communicated to all staff, pupils and parents.