



Intimate Care Policy

1. Policy Statement

WPC is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people, and adults at risk. This policy outlines how intimate care needs will be managed respectfully, sensitively, and safely within church activities.

This policy operates in line with:

- The safeguarding guidance of Presbyterian Church Ireland
- The principles of the **Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995**
- The **Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (Northern Ireland) Order 2007**
- The Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland

2. Definition of Intimate Care

Intimate care refers to any assistance that involves:

- Toileting or continence care
- Changing nappies or clothing
- Washing or personal hygiene
- Assisting with dressing
- Supporting medical or physical needs involving close personal contact

This may apply to both children and adults at risk.

3. Principles

All intimate care will be provided:

- With dignity and respect
- In a way that maintains privacy
- By appropriately recruited and trained individuals
- With parental/carer knowledge and consent
- In line with safeguarding best practice
- With appropriate recording and accountability

The individual's voice and dignity will always be central.

4. Parental / Carer Consent

- Written consent must be obtained for children who may require intimate care during church activities. If not available, contact the parent to change the child if necessary.

- Parents/carers will be informed if intimate care has been provided.

5. Staffing and Supervision

- All leaders must have appropriate safeguarding checks and training.
- Two adults must be present in the vicinity or aware when intimate care is provided.
- A leader must be over 18 to assist in intimate care

6. Guidelines

When providing intimate care:

- Explain what you are doing in age-appropriate language.
- Seek cooperation and consent where developmentally appropriate.
- Use designated areas that allow privacy without secrecy.
- Keep doors slightly ajar where appropriate.

7. Responding to Concerns

If a disclosure is made or concerns arise during intimate care, the leader must:

1. Remain calm and reassuring.
2. Avoid asking leading questions.
3. Record accurately what was said or observed.
4. Report immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO).

Where necessary, referrals will be made to:

- **Gateway Service**
- **Police Service of Northern Ireland**

8. Children or Adults with Ongoing Care Needs

Where ongoing intimate care is required:

- A written care plan will be agreed with parents/carers.
- Clear procedures will be documented.
- Leaders will receive appropriate guidance.
- Care plans will be reviewed regularly.

9. Protection of Workers

This policy protects both those receiving care and those providing it.

Leaders must:

- Avoid unnecessary physical contact.
- Not be alone in a closed space with a child.

- Immediately report any allegation or misunderstanding.

All allegations will be handled in accordance with church safeguarding procedures.

10. Training

All workers involved in children's or vulnerable adults' ministry will receive:

- Safeguarding training
- Instruction on this Intimate Care Policy

11. Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if legislation or safeguarding guidance changes.

Policy Approved By: Kirk Session of Waringstown Presbyterian Church

Date of Approval: June 2026

Next Review Date: June 2027