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Intimate Care policy

Autumn 2026
Review: 2028

Definition

Intimate care can be defined as any care which involves washing, touching or carrying out a medical procedure to intimate personal areas which most people carry out themselves but some are unable to do because of their age, physical or intellectual needs. Examples would be:- changing and showering in a swimming or hydrotherapy session, care associated with continence and menstrual management as well as more ordinary tasks such as help with washing and bathing. It also includes supervision of pupils managing their own intimate self-care.

The governing body will ensure it acts in accordance with: Keeping Children safe in Education September 2026 to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at this school and the Equalities Act 2010 which requires that any pupil will not be discriminated against.

Being responsible for the intimate care of our pupils puts staff in a position of great trust and as part of their induction and ongoing training they will receive, as relevant:

- Manual Handling training
- Administration of medicines training
- Hygiene training
- Appropriate ways to communicate with each pupil training
- Training with appropriate communication ie. Makaton
- ALL Staff receive Safeguarding training

In conjunction with this policy, staff must read the Safeguarding, Whistleblowing and Health and Safety Policies and the Single Equality Scheme.

Two staff will be present when administering intimate care and will record date, time, name of staff, name of child.

Children's dignity will be preserved and a high level of privacy, choice and control will be provided to them. Staff that provide intimate care to children have a high awareness of child protection issues. Staff behaviour is open to scrutiny and staff work in partnership with carers to provide continuity of care to children/young people wherever possible.

Every pupil has the right to:

- Be safe
- Have personal privacy
- Be valued as an individual
- Be treated with dignity and respect

- Be involved and consulted in their care to the best of their abilities with the appropriate styles of communication
- Express their views and to have them taken into account
- Have levels of intimate care that are as consistent as possible
- Be supported to help in their care

Staff will work in close partnership with parent/carers and other professionals such as Physiotherapists to share information and provide ongoing appropriate care.

Pupils who require regular assistance with their intimate care have written care plans agreed by parent/carers and appropriate professionals. These are overseen by the pupil's class teacher and the SENDCo. These plans are reviewed as necessary but at least annually and for specific circumstances such as day or overnight school trips. Parents should ensure that there is a sufficient supply of clean clothing available in school.

When a pupil needs intimate care that is not part of a care plan, such as needing a shower having been unwell, their parent/carer will be informed at once.

If the school is unable to ensure a child is clean and dry, for example if appropriate clothing cannot be found, parents will be called and asked to either bring clean clothing or take the child home for a short period to provide intimate care.

Physiotherapy

Pupils who require support with a Physiotherapy programme at school will either have it carried out by a Physiotherapist, their assistant or a member of school staff. In this last case, the programme must be demonstrated by the Physiotherapist and written guidance given and updated regularly. The physiotherapist will observe the member of staff carrying out the programme during the year. This will all be part of a pupil's care plan.

Medical Procedures

Pupils who need assistance with invasive or non-invasive medical procedures will have them written up in their care plan as agreed with parents/carers. Only staff trained to carry out these procedures will do so.