

Policy guidelines for Intimate Care

Governor Responsibility:	Education Committee
Staff Responsibility:	E. Kyriacou
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Governor Signature	

All pupils have the right to be safe and treated with dignity and respect and as such their welfare and dignity are of paramount importance. Intimate Care can be defined as care tasks of an intimate nature, associated with bodily functions, body products and personal hygiene, which demand direct or indirect contact with or exposure of genitals. Examples include care associated with continence and menstrual management as well as more ordinary tasks such as help with washing. These guidelines are designed to safeguard both pupils and staff and apply to every member of staff involved with the intimate care of pupils. The guidelines aim to support good practice in intimate care and state that;

1 Every pupil is treated with dignity and respect and privacy is ensured. Every pupil is encouraged to have a positive self-image

Intimate care can be carried out by two staff members working closely together with the pupil. However, staff should be sensitive to the pupil's need for privacy, dignity and gentle handling.

2 The pupil is involved as far as possible in their intimate care

Close contact and handling should be kept to the minimum necessary to complete the task. Try to avoid doing things for a pupil that he or she can do alone, and if a pupil is able to help, ensure that they are given the chance to do so. Support the pupil in doing all they can for themselves and always explain to them what you are doing.

3 Reactions of the pupil are responded to

Check your practice by asking the pupil, particularly a pupil you have not previously cared for, e.g. 'are you ready?', 'I am going to wipe you now etc.' Forewarn and prepare the pupil and behave consistently – this is not necessarily a time for choices but do respect the pupils' choice of carer for carrying out intimate tasks.

4 Intimate care is as consistent as possible

Where possible we ensure that staff have a consistent approach. This does not mean that everyone has to do things in an identical fashion, but it is important that approaches are not markedly different between different staff e.g. cleaning a pupil who has soiled them self and making them as comfortable as possible until a parent/carer arrives.

5 Any child protection concerns are reported

If, during the intimate care of the pupil you accidentally hurt them, or the pupil seems unusually sore in the genital area, or appears to be sexually aroused by your actions, or has a very emotional reaction without apparent cause, report any such incident as soon as possible in line with Child Protection Procedures. We believe that the way in which pupils are physically cared for will give them an understanding of appropriate physical contact which may alert them to inappropriate contacts and help them to respond appropriately as far as they are able.