

# Intimate care policy

Downs Infant School



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### 1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- › Intimate care is carried out properly by staff, in line with any agreed plans
- › The dignity, rights and wellbeing of children are safeguarded
- › Pupils with intimate care difficulties are not discriminated against, in line with the Equalities Act 2010
- › Parents are assured that staff are knowledgeable about intimate care and that the needs of their children are taken into account
- › Staff carrying out intimate care work do so within guidelines (i.e. health and safety, manual handling, safeguarding protocols awareness) that protect themselves and the pupils involved

Intimate care refers to any care which involves toileting, washing, changing, touching or carrying out an invasive procedure to children’s intimate personal areas.

### 2. Legislation and statutory guidance

This policy complies with [statutory safeguarding guidance](#).

### 3. Role of parents

#### 3.1 Seeking parental permission

For children who need routine or occasional intimate care (e.g. for toileting or toileting accidents), parents will be assumed to have given consent by sending their child to school.

For children whose needs are more complex or who need particular support outside of what's covered in the permission form (if used), an intimate care plan will be created in discussion with parents (see section 3.2 below).

#### 3.2 Creating an intimate care plan

Where an intimate care plan is required, it will be agreed in discussion between the school, parents, the child (when possible) and any relevant health professionals.

The school will work with parents and take their preferences on board to make the process of intimate care as comfortable as possible, dealing with needs sensitively and appropriately.

Subject to their age and understanding, the preferences of the child will also be taken into account. If there’s doubt whether the child is able to make an informed choice, their parents will be consulted.

The plan will be reviewed annually, even if no changes are necessary, and updated regularly, as well as whenever there are changes to a pupil's needs.

See appendix 1 for a blank template plan to see what this will cover.

### **3.3 Sharing information**

The school will share information with parents as needed to ensure a consistent approach. It will expect parents to also share relevant information regarding any intimate matters as needed.

## **4. Role of staff**

### **4.1 Which staff will be responsible**

All teaching staff and first aiders are responsible for carrying out routine intimate care. This includes all teachers, teaching assistants, office staff and student teachers under the guidance of class teachers. Children who have more complex intimate care plans will have their needs met by a member of the SEN team, or their class TA/teacher.

No other staff members can be required to provide intimate care. Volunteers will not carry out intimate care.

All staff at the school who carry out intimate care will have been subject to an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) with a barred list check before appointment, as well as other checks on their employment history.

### **4.2 How staff will be trained**

Staff will receive:

- › Training/information on how to carry out intimate care
- › Regular safeguarding training
- › If necessary, manual handling training that enables them to remain safe and for the pupil to have as much participation as is possible

They will be familiar with:

- › The control measures set out in risk assessments carried out by the school
- › Hygiene and health and safety procedures, including those related to COVID-19

They will also be encouraged to seek further advice as needed.

## **5. Intimate care procedures**

### **5.1 How procedures will happen**

It is not always possible to have two staff members present for intimate care, but if there is a known risk of false allegations by a pupil, or an invasive procedure is required, there must be two members of staff.

In all other cases, the member of staff dealing with the incident must advise a second member of staff that they are carrying out intimate care. They must not be on their own with the child behind a locked door.

Male members of staff are permitted to change female pupils as they have an enhanced DBS with a barred list check.

Procedures will be carried out in in one of the following:

- Child in child's toilet cubical with adult outside, offering verbal instruction and help when required
- Child and adult(s) in disabled toilet with door ajar, and giving verbal instruction, and help when required

At all times the care will be carried out in a way which promotes the child's dignity and independence. Children will be encouraged to do as much as they can themselves, with verbal support and instruction, and adult touching of any intimate areas will be a last resort for routine or accidental care, and carefully planned for in cases of more complex needs.

Procedures will be carried out in a COVID-safe way according to the school's risk assessment and COVID-19 protocol.

When carrying out procedures, the school will provide staff with: protective gloves, aprons, cleaning supplies, changing mats and bins.

For pupils needing routine intimate care, the school expects parents to provide, when necessary, a good stock (at least a week's worth in advance) of necessary resources, such as nappies, underwear and/or a spare set of clothing.

Any soiled clothing will be contained securely, clearly labelled, and discreetly returned to parents at the end of the day.

## **5.2 Concerns about safeguarding**

If a member of staff carrying out intimate care has concerns about physical changes in a child's appearance (e.g. marks, bruises, soreness), they will report this using the school's safeguarding procedures.

If a child is hurt accidentally or there is an issue when carrying out the procedure, the staff member will report the incident immediately to the DSL.

If a child makes an allegation against a member of staff, the responsibility for intimate care of that child will be given to another member of staff as quickly as possible and the allegation will be investigated according to the school's safeguarding procedures.

## **6. Monitoring arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed by the AHTI and Headteacher 3 yearly.

## **7. Links with other policies**

This policy links to the following policies and procedures:

- Accessibility plan
- Child protection and safeguarding
- COVID-19
- Health and safety
- SEN
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions

## Appendix 1: template intimate care plan

PARENTS/CARERS	
Name of child	
Type of intimate care needed	
How often care will be given	
What training staff will be given	
Where care will take place	
What resources and equipment will be used, and who will provide them	
How procedures will differ if taking place on a trip or outing	
Name of senior member of staff responsible for ensuring care is carried out according to the intimate care plan	
Name of parent or carer	
Relationship to child	
Signature of parent or carer	
Date	
CHILD	
How many members of staff would you like to help?	
Do you mind having a chat when you are being changed or washed?	
Signature of child	
Date	