



Somersault

**Somersault School
Intimate Care Policy**



Policy Statement

This policy outlines the procedures and expectations for providing intimate care to pupils in a safe, respectful, and dignified manner. The school recognises that some children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) may require assistance with personal and intimate care as part of their daily support needs.

The school is committed to:

- Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all pupils.
- Protecting the dignity, privacy, and rights of every child.
- Working in partnership with parents/carers and relevant professionals.
- Ensuring intimate care is delivered sensitively, respectfully, and consistently.

Definition of Intimate Care

Intimate care includes any care task involving:

- Washing
- Toileting
- Changing continence products
- Dressing/undressing
- Menstrual care
- Cleaning a child after soiling
- Supporting personal hygiene needs

Principles

All staff providing intimate care must:

- Treat every pupil with dignity and respect at all times.
- Encourage independence wherever possible.
- Communicate clearly and appropriately with the child.
- Ensure the child feels safe, reassured, and involved in decisions about their care.
- Maintain confidentiality while recognising safeguarding responsibilities.

Consent and Communication

Before providing intimate care:

- Staff must explain what support is needed using language, symbols, visuals, or communication methods appropriate to the child's level of understanding.
- Staff must ask the child for permission before providing any intimate care support.
- The child's verbal or non-verbal responses should be respected wherever possible.
- Staff should provide reassurance throughout the process and inform the child before any action is taken.

Where a child declines support, staff should:

- Encourage and reassure sensitively.
- Consider whether the child may need additional communication support.



- Record concerns where refusal may impact health, hygiene, or safeguarding.
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Staffing and Safeguarding Procedures

To protect both pupils and staff:

- Intimate care should normally be carried out by one trained member of staff.
- A second member of staff must be present nearby as an observer for safeguarding purposes whenever possible.
- The observing staff member should remain appropriately positioned to maintain the child's dignity and privacy while ensuring safeguarding oversight.
- Staff must avoid situations where they are completely isolated with a pupil during intimate care unless there is an emergency or exceptional circumstance.

Both staff members should:

- Be familiar with the pupil's individual care plan.
 - Follow agreed safeguarding procedures.
 - Report any concerns immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).
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Protecting Dignity and Privacy

The dignity of the child must be protected at all times by:

- Using private and appropriate facilities.
 - Closing doors, curtains, or screens during care.
 - Covering the child appropriately during changing or cleaning.
 - Speaking respectfully and calmly throughout the process.
 - Avoiding unnecessary exposure of the child's body.
 - Respecting the child's preferences where possible, including preferred staff gender if identified in care plans.
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Health and Safety

Staff must:

- Follow infection control and hygiene procedures.
 - Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
 - Dispose of waste safely and hygienically.
 - Wash hands before and after intimate care procedures.
 - Report any concerns relating to rashes, bruising, soreness, injuries, or changes in presentation.
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Safeguarding Concerns

Any member of staff who notices:

- Unexplained marks or injuries,
- Changes in behaviour,
- Signs of distress,



- Unusual reactions during intimate care, must report these immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead in line with the school's safeguarding procedures.

Accurate records should be maintained where appropriate.

Individual Care Plans

Pupils requiring regular intimate care support should have an Individual Intimate Care Plan which includes:

- The child's specific care needs
- Communication preferences
- Level of independence
- Required equipment
- Medical information
- Staffing arrangements
- Parent/carer agreements
- Safeguarding considerations

Plans should be reviewed regularly with parents/carers and relevant professionals.

Training

Staff involved in intimate care must receive appropriate training, including:

- Safeguarding
- Manual handling where applicable
- Infection control
- Communication strategies
- SEND-specific support needs
- Maintaining professional boundaries

Working with Parents and Carers

The school will work closely with parents/carers to:

- Ensure consistency of care
- Share relevant information
- Agree care procedures
- Promote pupil independence
- Address concerns promptly and sensitively

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if legislation, guidance, or school procedures change.