
Intimate Care

We recognise that occasionally there is a need to provide intimate care to children. Adherence to this way will ensure that we are showing a duty of care in relation to safeguarding, children receive appropriate and dignified support and staff are protected from any risk of allegations being made against them.

Definition of Intimate Care

Intimate care can be defined as any care which involves washing, touching or carrying out a procedure to intimate personal areas which most people usually carry out themselves but some pupils are unable to do because of their young age, physical difficulties or other special needs. Examples include care associated with continence and menstrual management as well as more ordinary tasks such as help with washing, toileting or dressing.

It also includes supervision of pupils involved in intimate self-care.

In most situations in our school, this will usually be about providing support to the very youngest children who have had a toilet accident and encouraging them to do all they can to clean up. If a child does have an accident, we will support them in a dignified way but if this happens on a regular basis the school will meet the family to put a care plan in place.

Procedures

- Pupils who require regular assistance with intimate care have written care plans, agreed by staff, families, the school nurse and any other professionals actively involved.
- Where a care plan is not in place, families will be informed the same day if their child has needed help with meeting intimate care needs (e.g. has had an 'accident' and wet or soiled him/herself) by the school nurse or the child's teacher (decide between you)
- The school nurse will keep a record of all times intimate care has been provided (see foot of this document).
- All pupils will be encouraged to be as independent as possible at all times and especially when related to self-care.
- Where the pupil is of an appropriate age and level of understanding permission should be sought before starting an intimate procedure.
- An individual member of staff should inform another appropriate adult when they are going to assist a pupil with intimate care. Intimate care should be undertaken with a minimum of two adults in attendance so as to safeguard both the adults and the child.
- In general, intimate care should only be provided by the school nurses if it is a medical issue. If a child needs intimate care for an 'accident' there should always be a minimum of two adults present.



THE AQUILA SCHOOL

SAFE HAPPY LEARNING

- Adults who assist pupils with intimate care should be employees of the school, not students or volunteers, and therefore have the usual range of safer recruitment checks, including all required checks.
- The religious views, beliefs and cultural values of children and their families should be taken into account, particularly as they might affect certain practices or determine the gender of the carer.
- No member of staff will carry a mobile phone, camera or similar device whilst providing intimate care.
- In all intimate care situations, the schools' safeguarding policy must be adhered to.
- The FS assistant heads has a supply of clean clothes that can be used for children to change into – any soiled clothing should be sent home in a sealed bag.
- If a child has had an accident, please ensure the clothes are put in a plastic bag and sent home with the child. Please then email the family to let them know their child has had an accident.
- If a child repeatedly has accidents the family will then be given the option of removing the child from school for a short period of time to re-toilet train them or the family to ensure an adult is present in school during the day to change their child if they have an accident.