

PINNER WOOD SCHOOL



INTIMATE CARE POLICY

Approval Authority

Effective From: September 2025

Date Ratified by GB:

Next Review Date: September 2026

Signed by Chair of GB:

Intimate Care Policy

Introduction

Pinner Wood Primary School is committed to ensuring that all staff who are responsible for the intimate care of children will undertake their duties in a professional manner at all times. We recognise that there is a need to treat all children with respect and dignity when intimate care is given. No child should be attended to in a way that causes distress, embarrassment or discomfort. Children will be given a great degree of privacy, choice, and control while maintaining their dignity. Staff that provide intimate care to children have a high awareness and are very knowledgeable of child protection matters. Staff will work in partnership with parents/carers to ensure that care is continuous.

Definitions

Intimate care is any care which involves washing, touching or carrying out an invasive procedure to intimate personal areas. In most cases such care will involve procedures to do with personal hygiene and cleaning of associated equipment as part of the staff member's duty of care. In this case, only the staff suitably trained and assessed as competent should undertake the procedures.

Our approach to best practice

The management of all children with intimate care needs will be carefully planned. The welfare and dignity of the child in need of care will always come first. Staff who provide intimate care are trained to do so and are fully aware of best practice. Suitable equipment and facilities will be provided to assist children who need special arrangements following advice from the occupational therapist and in line with the child's Educational Health Care Plan.

Staff will be supported to adapt their practices in relation to the needs of individual children, taking in to account developmental changes such as the onset of puberty or menstruation and developmental delays. The child will be supported to achieve the highest level of autonomy that is possible given their age and abilities. Staff will encourage each child to do as much for him/herself as are able. Individual intimate care plans will be drawn up for children as appropriate to suit the individual need of the child. The right to privacy of every child will be upheld. Careful consideration will be given to each child's situation to determine how many staff members will need to be present when a child is toileted. Where possible

Intimate care arrangements will be discussed with parents/carers on a regular basis and recorded on the child's personal care plan. The needs and wishes of children and parents will be taken into account whenever possible within the constraints of staffing and equal opportunities legislation.