

Safeguarding Statement

Five Acre Wood School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and requires all staff to share this commitment.

Our revised Intimate Care Policy ensures that everyone is clear regarding the role of school staff and personal care. The key changes to the policy include specific statements that make clear:

- A pupil may be supported by more than one member of the staff team.
- Intimate Care arrangements are now stated explicitly and in greater detail in pupils Health Care Plans. You may have been asked to sign a new copy of this recently. This action has been taken to ensure that there is a clear understanding of the role school staff.
- All school staff are expected to carry out personal care responsibilities regardless of gender. Please speak to a member of the staff team if you have any questions regarding this. The needs and wishes of children and parents will be taken into account wherever possible within the constraints of staffing and equal opportunities legislation.

We are committed to providing the best possible care for our pupils

Regular support of an intimate nature should be planned for. Agreements between the school, those with parental responsibility and the child concerned should be documented and easily understood. The necessity for such requirements should be reviewed regularly, usually at a pupils EHCP meeting, but not restricted to these times. The pupil's views (where appropriate) must also be actively sought and, in particular, any discomfort with the arrangements addressed.

Finally ...

Should you wish to view the Intimate Care Policy in full please speak to a member of the staff team who will be happy to provide a copy of this for you.

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Principal
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A Summary of the Intimate Care Policy

September 2025



What is Intimate/Personal Care?

Intimate care is any care which involves washing, touching or carrying out an invasive procedure (such as cleaning up a pupil after they have soiled themselves) to intimate personal areas. In most cases such care will involve cleaning for hygiene purposes as part of a staff member's duty of care. In the case of a specific procedure only a person suitably trained and assessed as competent should undertake the procedure, (e.g. the administration of rectal diazepam). It may also include supporting pupils to undress and dress for physical education activities or drying a pupil after swimming or a hydro therapy session.



Our approach

The issue of intimate care is a sensitive one and will require staff to be respectful of the child's needs. The child's dignity should always be preserved with a high level of privacy, choice and control. There shall be a high awareness of child protection issues. Staff behaviour must be open to scrutiny and staff must work in partnership with parents/carers to provide continuity of care to children/young people wherever possible.

Five Acre Wood School is committed to ensuring that all staff responsible for the intimate care of children will undertake their duties in a professional manner at all times. Five Acre Wood School recognises that there is a need to treat all children with respect when intimate care is given. No child should be attended to in a way that causes distress or pain.

A copy of the school's safeguarding policy is located in the school reception.



Training and Support

All staff will receive the relevant training in order to meet pupil's personal care needs. If your pupil's personal care needs please ensure that the class teacher is informed immediately as we may need to update the Health Care Plan or put in place a temporary arrangement.



If you need to make changes to existing personal care arrangements please contact the school as soon as possible so we can continue to meet all of our pupils needs.