



GOBIERNO  
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ACCIÓN  
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EXTERIOR



# INTIMATE CARE POLICY

**Last Reviewed: January 2023**

**Ratified by the Headteacher and Safeguarding Lead**

**Next review Date: May 2024**

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## **Definition**

Intimate care may be defined as any activity required to meet the personal care needs of each individual child. Families have a responsibility to advise staff of the intimate care needs of their child, and staff have a responsibility to work in partnership with children and parents.

Intimate care can include:

- Washing
- Dressing/undressing
- Toileting
- Supervision of a child involved in intimate self-care

## **Aims**

This policy aims to regulate the intimate care of our pupils in case any student aged three or four years cannot make it to the toilet in time and wet themselves.

The school has neither the facilities nor the means to clean up after our pupils if they soil themselves. Therefore, it is essential that the pupils have achieved potty training before starting school. If this is not the case, the family will have to clean up after their child.

## **Principles of intimate Care**

The following are the fundamental principles upon our Intimate Care Policy is based:

- Every child has the right to be safe.
- Every child has the right to personal privacy.
- Every child has the right to be valued as an individual.
- Every child has the right to be treated with dignity and respect.
- Every child has the right to be involved and consulted in their own intimate care to the best of their abilities.
- Every child has the right to express their views on their own intimate care and to have such views taken into account.
- Every child has the right to have levels of intimate care that are as consistent as possible.

## Responsibilities

- Only Early Years staff from Cañada Blanch, will undertake the intimate care of children. The Safeguarding team with the Leadership team, must ensure that all of them are familiar with, and understand our Intimate Care Policy.
- When intimate care is required, two members of staff will be present.
- Intimate care arrangements must be agreed by the School and parents / carers, in the event of any toilet incidents.
- Staff should not undertake any aspect of intimate care that has not been agreed between the School and families, and those concernings to soils will be carried out only by the family.
- Intimate care arrangements will be reviewed in case of any discrepancy. The views of all relevant parties should be sought and considered to inform future arrangements. If a staff member has concerns about a colleague's intimate care practice they must report this to the Headteacher.

## Guidelines for Good Practice

All children have the right to be safe and to be treated with dignity and respect. These guidelines are designed to safeguard children and staff. They apply to every member of staff involved with the intimate care of children.

- Involve the child in their intimate care

Try to encourage a child's independence as far as possible in his / her intimate care. When the child is fully dependent, talk with them about what is going to be done and give them choice where possible.

- Make sure practice in intimate care is consistent

As a child can have multiple carers a consistent approach to care is essential. Effective communication between parents / carers and School, ensures practice is consistent.

- Be aware of own limitations

Only carry out care activities you understand and feel competent and confident to carry out. If in doubt, ask.

- Promote positive self-esteem and body image.

Confident, self-assured children who feel their body belongs to them are less vulnerable to sexual abuse. The approach you take to intimate care can convey lots of messages to a child about their body worth. Your attitude to a child's intimate care is important. Keeping in mind the child's age, routine care can be relaxed, enjoyable and fun.

- If you have any concerns you must report them.

If you observe any unusual markings, discolourations or swelling including the genital area, report immediately to the Safeguarding Lead or any member of the Safeguarding team. If during the intimate care of a child you accidentally hurt them, or the child appears to be sexually aroused by your actions, or misunderstands or misinterprets something, reassure the child, ensure their safety and report the incident immediately to the DSL. Report and record any unusual emotional or behavioural response by the child. A written record of concerns must be made and kept in the child's personal file. Parents / carers must be informed about concerns.

## PERMISSION FORM FOR INTIMATE CARE

Dear Parents,

If children wet themselves occasionally whilst they are in school, our staff are experienced at carrying out intimate care if you wish them to do so. Otherwise if preferred, the school can contact you or your emergency contact who will be asked to attend without delay. Under no circumstances will the child be washed in case of soiled. The family will have to come to the school to take care of this task.

Vicente Cañada Blanch School has an Intimate Care Policy which is available to view on our website. Please fill out the permission slip below stating your preference.

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### CONSENT FOR INTIMATE CARE

Name of Child.....

Class.....

Please tick as appropriate

- I give consent for my child to be cleaned and changed if they wet themselves whilst in the care of Cañada Blanch Spanish School.
  
- I do not give consent for my child to be cleaned and changed if they wet themselves. The school will contact me or my emergency contact and I will organise for my child to be cleaned and changed. I understand that in the event that we cannot be contacted, the staff will act appropriately and may need to come into some level of physical contact in order to aid my child.

Signature of Parent/Carer..... Date.....