



Intimate Care Policy
2024-25

Our vision

Our vision is to provide a safe, caring and nurturing environment, where everyone is given opportunities to learn, discover and grow in our changing world. We will live out our Christian values of Respect, Hope, Love, Forgiveness, Trust and Honesty and strive to guide our community into leading fruitful lives, learning from Jesus' teachings, to love themselves and one another in order to flourish.

'Teach children how they should live, and they will remember it all their life.'

Proverbs 22:6

The purpose of this guidance is:

- To safeguard the rights and promote the best interests of the children
- To ensure children are treated with sensitivity and respect, and in such a way that their experience of intimate care is a positive one
- To safeguard adults required to operate in sensitive situations
- To raise awareness and provide a clear procedure for intimate care
- To inform parents/carers in how intimate care is administered
- To ensure parents/carers are consulted in the intimate care of their children

Principles

It is essential that every child is treated as an individual and that care is given as gently and as sensitively as possible. As far as possible, the child should be allowed to exercise choice and should be encouraged to have a positive image of his/her own body. It is important for staff to bear in mind how they would feel in the child's position. Given the right approach, intimate care can provide opportunities to teach children about the value of their own bodies, to develop their safety skills and to enhance their self-esteem.

Parents and staff should be aware that matters concerning intimate care will be dealt with confidentially and sensitively and that the young persons' right to privacy and dignity is maintained at all times.

Definition

Intimate care is one of the following:

- Supporting a pupil with dressing/undressing
- Providing comfort or support for a distressed pupil
- Assisting a pupil requiring medical care, who is not able to carry this out unaided
- Cleaning a pupil who has soiled him/herself, has vomited or feels unwell

Supporting dressing/undressing

Sometimes it will be necessary for staff to aid a child in getting dressed or undressed particularly in Early Years. Staff will always encourage children to attempt undressing and dressing unaided.

Providing comfort and support

Children may seek physical comfort from staff. Where children require physical support, staff need to be aware that physical contact must be kept to a minimum and be child initiated. When comforting a child or giving reassurance, the member of staff's hands should always be seen and a child should not be positioned close to a member of staff's body which could be regarded as intimate. If physical contact is deemed to be appropriate staff must provide care which is suitable to the age, gender and situation of the child. If a child touches a member of staff in a way that makes him/her feel uncomfortable this can be gently but firmly discouraged in a way which communicates that the touch, rather than the child, is unacceptable. (see *Safe Touch policy*)

Medical procedures (see *First Aid policy*)

If it is necessary for a child to receive medicine during the school day parents must fill out an "**Agreement for school to administer prescribed medication**" form (WCC) from the school office; and discuss their child's needs with a member of staff before the school agrees to administer medicines or medical care. It must be made clear to parents that **staff administration of medicines is voluntary**.

Any member of staff giving medicine to a pupil should check:

- The pupil's name
- Written instructions provided doctor / pharmacist
- Prescribed dose
- Expiry date

Once the medicine has been administered, two members of staff will sign the "Medicine Checklist" as a safeguard that it has been correctly administered.

Guidance

- We will only administer prescribed medicines
- We will only administer medicines if **4 does are needed in a day**, as 3 can be administered outside school hours.
- A signed consent must be completed and we need to be provided with the named prescription bottle so we can follow the correct instructions.
- The medicine must be administered by 2 adults, ideally by a first aider, and they will sign the medicine record book.
- Medicines should be handed into the office by parents and not children.

Particular attention should be paid to the safe storage, handling and disposal of medicines. The Head of School has prime responsibility for the safe management of medicines kept at school. This duty derives from the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH). School staff are also responsible for making sure that anyone in school is safe. Medicines should be generally be kept in a secure place, not accessible to pupils but arrangements must be in place to ensure that any medication that a pupil might need in an emergency is readily available.

Soiling

Intimate care for soiling should only be given to a child **after** the parents have given permission for staff to clean and change the child. Parents who have children may sign a permission form so that the Early Years staff can change their child in the event of the child soiling or wetting themselves.

If a parent does not give consent, the school will contact the parents or other emergency contact giving specific details about the necessity for cleaning the child. If the parents/carers or emergency contact is able to come within a few minutes, the child is comforted and kept away from the other children to preserve dignity until the parent arrives. Children are not left on their own whilst waiting for a parent to arrive, an adult will stay with them, giving comfort and reassurance. The child will be dressed at all times and never left partially clothed.

If a parent/carer or emergency contact cannot attend, the school seeks to gain verbal consent from parents/carers for staff to clean and change the child. This permission will be sought on each occasion that the child soils him or herself.

If the parents and emergency contacts cannot be contacted the Head of School will be consulted. Staff will then act appropriately and may need to come into some level of physical contact in order to aid the child.

When touching a child, staff should always be aware of the possibility of invading a child's privacy and will respect the child's wishes and feelings.

If a child needs to be cleaned, staff will make sure that:

- Protective gloves are worn
- The procedure is discussed in a friendly and reassuring way with the child throughout the process
- The child is encouraged to care for him/herself as far as possible
- Physical contact is kept to the minimum possible to carry out the necessary cleaning
- Privacy is given appropriate to the child's age and situation
- All spills of vomit, blood or excrement are wiped up and flushed down the toilet
- Any soiling that can be, is flushed down the toilet
- Soiled clothing is put in a plastic bag, unwashed, and sent home with the child

Hygiene

All staff must be familiar with normal procedures for avoiding infection, must follow basic hygiene procedures and have access to protective, disposable gloves.

Protection of Staff

Members of staff need to have regard to the danger of allegations being made against them and to take precautions to avoid this risk. These should include:

- Gaining a verbal agreement from a senior member of staff that the action being taken is necessary
- Allow the child a choice in the sequence of care
- Be aware of and responsive to the child's reactions
- **Always have 2 adults present**