

INTIMATE CARE POLICY

THIS POLICY APPLIES TO ALL CHILDREN AT THE SCHOOL INCLUDING THOSE IN THE EYFS.

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INTIMATE CARE POLICY

1. Introduction

The purpose of this policy 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 of care of their children

2. 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 their 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 a young person's right to privacy and dignity is maintained at all times. Staff who need to help a child where intimate care is necessary must do so in the presence or sight of another member of staff.

3. Definition

Intimate care incorporates:

- 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.

4. Location

The designated areas where any intimate care is required are: Nursery - the w/c area; Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 - the Junior School First Aid Room or the nearest w/c; Years 4 - 8 - the First Aid Room by the school office.

5. Supporting Dressing/undressing

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

6. Providing Comfort or Support

Children may seek physical comfort from staff (particularly children in Nursery and Reception). 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 them feel uncomfortable this can be gently but firmly discouraged in a way which communicates that the touch, rather than the child, is unacceptable.

Staff should always ensure they are visible to other staff and children through an open door or window when providing comfort and support to a child to protect the child and themselves.

7. 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 in Nursery or Reception may sign a permission form so that the Early Years staff can clean and change their child in the event of the child soiling themselves. (Appendix 1)

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, a member of staff will stay with them or be near 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 Assistant Head, Junior School or Deputy Head will be consulted. If put in an impossible situation where the child is at risk, staff will 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 themselves 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 the 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

8. Hygiene

All staff must be familiar with normal precautions for avoiding infection, must follow basic hygiene procedures and have access to PPE - apron, gloves, visor/mask. Hands must always be washed before and afterwards.

9. Protection for Staff

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

- Gaining a verbal agreement from another member of staff that the action being taken is necessary and ensuring that any action that is required is in the presence or sight of another member of staff
- Allow the child, wherever possible, to express a preference to choose their carer
- encourage the child to say if they find a carer to be unacceptable
- Allow the child a choice in the sequence of care
- Be aware of and responsive to the child's reactions

10. Safeguards for Children

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the school safeguarding policy and associated links and references.

11. Permission Form for the Provision of Care:

(To be filled out before starting Early Years)

If a child wets or soils themselves while they are at Nursery or Reception it is important that measures are taken to have them changed (and if necessary cleaned) as quickly as possible. Our Early Years staff are experienced and trained at carrying out this task if you wish them to do so or, if preferred, the school can

contact you or your emergency contact who will be asked to attend without delay.

Gayhurst School has an Intimate Care Policy which is available for you to view on the school website or please contact the school office for a copy.

Please fill out the permission slip below stating your preference.

Yours sincerely

Mrs H Williams
Assistant Head Junior

Name of Child.....Class.....

Please delete as appropriate

*I give consent for my child to be changed and cleaned by Early Years staff if they wet/soil themselves while in the care of Gayhurst School.

*I do not give consent for my child to be changed and cleaned if they wet/soil 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 I (or the emergency contact) cannot be contacted the staff will act appropriately and may need to come into some level of physical contact in order to aid the child.

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